

Good news from down under
Aussie Olympic gold medalist comes
out, gay and lesbian politicians elected.

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The harassment continues
SLDN documents over 1,400
violations of DADT in report.

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Oscar in an off-year
Back-patting and
ballyhoo in Hollywood.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 12 • 22 March 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Paris elects gay mayor

by David Fraser

Edith Piaf had it right, as usual. In Paris, *la vie* is about to get a lot more "en rose."

Paris, the capital of France and a city of over 2 million people, is getting a gay mayor.

Bertrand Delanoë, who actively supports gay issues, won the municipal election Sunday, March 18, defeating Philippe Seguin as the Socialists took the French capital.



Bertrand Delanoë

"Today, Parisians have freely decided in favor of change in the capital," Delanoë, 50, said in a victory speech at campaign headquarters. He will take office this Sunday, March 25.

The election was seen as a loss for President Jacques Chirac's conservatives, but the left also lost in several lesser cities.

In his campaign, Delanoë focused on improving the quality of life for Parisians, promising to reduce pollution and address concerns about poor suburbs, the Associated Press said.

Delanoë, who came out on television in 1999, has taken part in gay Pride marches and campaigned for legal rights for unmarried couples, including same-sex partners.

Surina Khan, executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco, was delighted with Delanoë's election.

"This is a great thing, and we are very pleased and excited to see an openly gay person elected," Khan told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "This will go a long way in Europe, and across the world, modeling the value of an LGBT perspective in politics and culture. And it will help in advancing and advocating for the human rights of all people, including lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered." ▼

Gay.com drops bareback chat room

by David Fraser

Gay.com's decision to drop its dedicated barebacking chat room has produced sharp protest — and some strong approval — from members who frequented the site.

The debate stems from the March 12 closure of the site-generated room which had drawn barebackers (or, as some prefer it, men who have unprotected anal sex with men) into a venue where they could chat or, more commonly, hook up with each other.

"Shame on you, Gay.com," said one post. "Removal of the bareback rooms will not make it go away. ... It was a comfortable room in which poz guys could feel at ease and able to carry on without asking THE question at every prospective contact!"

Said another post: "Bottom line is — get real. Oh, did it ever occur to anyone that plenty of guys go to the bareback room for FANTASY purposes? Just so you know, most of us don't use condoms in our fantasies. Gay.com's decision to remove the Bareback Room was knee-jerk, self-righteous and totally LAME. But, like I said, EXTREMELY predictable."

One proponent of the closure, a self-described previous "harshest critic" of the Web site, said: "Gay.com has proven it is a responsible corporation by reversing an ill-made but apparently well-intended decision. No one can honestly say he is being censored or excluded because he must create a room which promotes HIV transmission instead of having a room created by Gay.com which might confuse men who mistake an official room as a signal that the associated behavior is acceptable..."

Member rooms

The company says there's no censorship involved, and that members can easily create their own private rooms online. HIV educators can make their presence known widely throughout the site's rooms.

The reactions come as Gay.com, a major gay-focused portal which maintains its site in several languages and is owned by On-linePartners.com Inc., prepares to merge with PlanetOut, widely seen as the Web's most popular queer-oriented site.

PlanetOut spokesman Bryce Eberhart said on Tuesday, March 20 that the merger had just received state approval, clearing the way for the final deal.

On Gay.com's message boards, as of Tuesday there were 17 responses, although the company said they expected more as members log on and find the barebacking chat room has been replaced by the room manager's message giving the firm's rationale at length.

Which way to the board?

There are two separate sets of message boards that focus on barebacking. However, new users may find the path to voicing their views rather tortuous since there are hardly any signposts labeled "barebacking."

One way is through the HIVlife channel, where the link to the closure discussion thread is 19th out of 20 topics listed.

"It comes down to how familiar you are with the site, how you use our tools," said Elizabeth Kennedy, Gay.com's director of community and member care. "Everyone navigates

in a different way ... we try to anticipate the routes people take." She recommends that members set up their own specific page onsite.

Kennedy said the decisions to establish, and to delete, the barebacking chat room were "not made lightly." She said health concerns were the primary factor.

Barebacking is a highly contentious issue. Opponents say it boosts the risk of infection of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, especially if participants are dishonest with each other. Proponents say informed consent about risks and behaviors is a reasonable standard for consensual sex, and that it's a private matter.

Risks

"As a corporation, we have to be responsible for the forums we provide," Kennedy told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's not as simple as boiling it down to blindly providing a space where people can ostensibly connect for reasons which can be dangerous to the community."

"We need to be accountable, and take consideration of the health risks."

Kennedy rebuffed suggestions that the



Gay.com's Elizabeth Kennedy

merger plans drove the decision to drop the barebacking room: "We got responses from the community, consumers, people within the company, volunteers ... the perspectives var-

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Family Week kicks off today!

by Katie Szymanski

Break out the rainbow backpack and put triangles on the stroller; Family Awareness Week is here. The third annual week of festivities hosted by various LGBT and queer-friendly organizations starts tonight, March 22, and runs through April 1, and includes a variety of activities to address concerns, have fun, and be with others whose families are not so nuclear.

"There are so many fantastic events this year," said Cheryl Deaner, executive director of All Our Families Coalition, the group that brings together all the organizations that participate in Family Week.

The holiday used to be known as Family Day, before LGBT parents started multiplying like bunnies.

"There has been a huge baby boom, and people are adopting like crazy, and parents are also more willing to be honest and out," said Deaner of how times have changed. "Different organizations are also communicating. Five or 10 years ago you may have known about one lesbian mom group or one sperm bank; now they all work together, so people know where to go."

Launching this year's holiday is the Jewish Community Center with "Putting a Face on Lesbian and Gay Families," a discussion series held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the center, 3200 California Street. Tonight's topic will look at bringing Jewish



Family Week organizers Cheryl Deaner, from All Our Families Coalition, and Our Family's Jon Logan.

values to lesbian and gay parenting situations, and will focus on different parenting options, including biological, adoption, co-parenting, and single parenting. Admission is \$10 for JCC members and \$12 for non-members. For more information, call Yossi Offenberg at (415) 292-1237, or Kenny Altman at (415) 563-1041.

On Saturday is everybody's favorite way to blow off steam, the annual Family Night at Berkeley's YMCA, sponsored by Our Family. From 6-9 p.m. on March 24, the celebration will include a pizza party, activities like swimming, arts and crafts, kindergym, and indoor sports, and face painting. There will be music and entertainment, and "many great photo opportunities," according to Jon Logan, executive director of Our Family.

"There is no YMCA in America as

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Help is here for low-income taxpayers

by David Fraser

Surprise: even if you've acquired a sizable viatical settlement, you may get a break or refund on your taxes through Tax-Aid.

The free service helps low-income Bay Area wage earners fill out their tax forms, and often, get an unexpected refund, according to San Francisco officials.

Tax-Aid, a nonprofit, is offering free tax-preparation sessions at tax clinics over the next several weeks to taxpayers with household incomes under \$30,000.

The announcement of this year's sessions came March 15 from San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal and Supervisor Mark Leno.

"There's tens of millions of dollars due to San Francisco low-income workers who are not taking advantage of" the tax break, said Leno. "Many low-income earners are simply not aware they may be eligible for a refund."

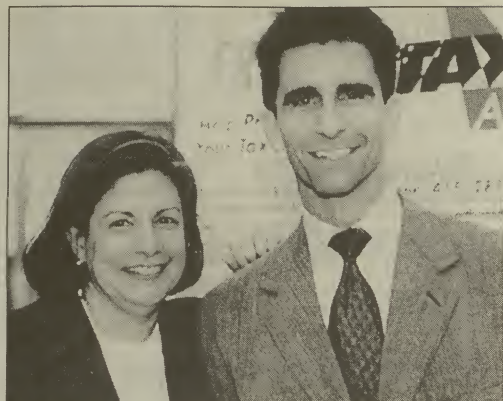
"It's money waiting to be picked up," Leal told the *Bay Area Reporter*. She said that last year, 850 area households received around \$750,000 in tax refunds through the service.

Much of the assistance comes via the earned income credit (EIC), a special tax benefit aimed at helping those on low incomes.

"This credit has been equated, as the biggest supplement" to income for many people, Leal said.

Unaware public

According to Julius Turman, vice president at the public relations firm Ketchum, fewer than 50 percent of families below the poverty line are aware of EIC benefits, which can be worth up to



Treasurer Susan Leal and Supervisor Mark Leno at the Tax-Aid kickoff.

\$3,888 in cash.

Participants at the City Hall announcement included several people who said they had benefited from the program. One was Lyle-Cassard, who is HIV-positive and on long-term disability.

"I got a [form] 1099 from my viatical settlement, and figured there was probably going to be a lot of tax," Cassard said. "I called Positive Resources, which referred me to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Eventually I was hooked up with Tax-Aid and I ended up breaking even."

The nonprofit organization is administered and supported by the major accounting firm Arthur Andersen.

Tax-Aid relies on trained volunteers at numerous locations throughout San Francisco, the East Bay, Marin, and the Peninsula to help families access the EIC and other tax credits, according to chairman Larry Gorrell, Ander-

sen's managing partner.

"We'll help you fill it out. You just sign and send," Gorrell said.

Now in its 14th year, Tax-Aid has helped with \$4 million in refunds to 6,000 low-income taxpayers in the Bay Area, Gorrell added.

Leno said that "anyone earning from minimum wage to \$8.50 per hour" can likely benefit from the sessions, including single persons. He noted that tax forms can be especially daunting for those whose native language is not English.

Bilingual assistance is available in Spanish, Chinese, and Russian. ▼

For information, call Tax-Aid at (415) 281-1600, or e-mail: taxaid@us.arthurandersen.com. Bring your W-2s, other proofs of income, and tax forms. Tax-Aid is open to all families with total gross incomes under \$30,000.

Community Center tenants announced

by David Fraser

The San Francisco LGBT Community Center Project has released a list of 24 organizations that will lease space there when it opens later this year.

People affiliated with the organizations were on hand last Friday, March 16, at the Forum at Yerba Buena Gardens, where the Community Center Project held its toga party, complete with a costume contest and other activities.

Mike Marshall, interim executive director of the center, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Friday's event was a success.

"There was a great mixed crowd and high energy," Marshall said.

The leases at the center, under construction at the corner of Market and Octavia streets, will be well below market rates for San Francisco office space, Marshall added.

"We're thrilled to be housed at the new community center," said Cheryl Deaner of All Our Families Coalition. "Now we and other LGBT organizations won't have to choose between maintaining services for our community and paying for skyrocketing office rents."

Eddie Dobbins, co-chair of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, said, "The dynamic mix of so many diverse organizations working together at the new center will create a renewed



Partygoers in togas and gladiator costumes danced to the tunes of Page Hodel at the community center benefit March 16.

sense of community and cooperation among LGBT people across racial, class, age, and gender lines."

One group that will have an office at the center, the Youth Gender Project, focuses on transgender youth, Marshall said. Dana Van Gorder, vice president of the center's board, told the *B.A.R.* that initially, another transgender group had been accepted but had to pull out. He said that if there's another transgender group that is interested in leasing space, they should contact the center.

In addition to those organizations, the center will house: Harvey Milk Institute, Queer Cultural Center, Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center, Queer Youth Training Collaborative, Dimen-

sions Health Services for Queer Youth, Children of Lesbians & Gays Everywhere, Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits, Online Policy Group, QueerNet, New Leaf Community Services, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Positive Resource Center, LGBT Workers' Rights Project, Asian-Pacific Islander Wellness Center, Black Coalition on AIDS Inc., Bay Area Bisexual Network, BiNet USA, *Anything That Moves* magazine, Bay Area Career Women, and the Deaf Gay and Lesbian Center. ▼

For more information about the LGBT Community Center, call (415) 437-2257.

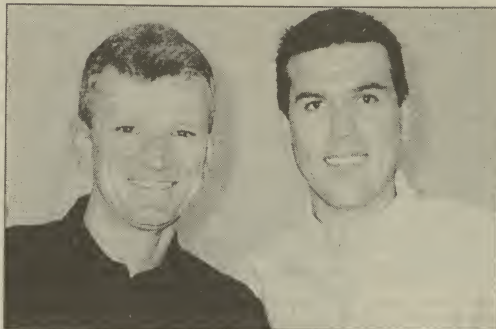
Still time to register for SF's DP ceremony

by Cynthia Laird

Spring is in the air and that means San Francisco's annual domestic partner ceremony can't be far off. In fact, the event that Mayor Willie Brown started in 1996 is set for Thursday, March 29 and city officials said that there is still time for you and your same-sex domestic partner to sign up to participate in the ceremony.

The deadline for couples to register is this Friday, March 23 at 4 p.m. Interested people can stop by the County Clerk's office in City Hall, room 168, or call deputy county clerk Magdalena Zevallos at (415) 554-4959. The ceremony fee is \$30.

As in previous years, the domestic partner ceremony will take place in the Rotunda in City Hall. Registration starts at 5 p.m. with the ceremony and reception taking place from 6 to 7:30. During



DJ Duill, left, and his partner Alec MacKenzie, are one of many couples who will take part in next week's domestic partner ceremony.

the reception, there will be a drawing for prizes, as well as cake and beverages. The reception takes place in the North Light Court.

"I am truly proud that San

Francisco is able to host this important ceremony each year," Brown said.

Since the first ceremony, 477 couples have participated in the annual event. ▼

Vote for grand marshal this weekend!

by Katie Szymanski

The pansies are in full bloom, and their gardens don't look bad either. But while you're out enjoying the season, don't forget to vote for grand marshal of San Francisco's world-famous LGBT Pride Parade.

Voters may choose up to three nominees in each category of individuals, celebrities, and organizations to be honored. Ballot boxes will be set up this weekend at the

following locations and times:

- The N'Touch bar on Polk Street, Friday, March 23, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

- Castro and 18th streets, Saturday March 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, March 25, from 2 to 5 p.m.

- Club Papi, 550 Barneveld, Saturday March 24, from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

- The Eagle, 398 12th Street, in South of Market, Sunday March 25, from 3 to 5 p.m.

More locations for voting next

weekend, including locations in the East Bay, will be announced soon. For more information, a list of grand marshal nominees, and voting regulations (yes, you can only vote once), visit www.sfpride.org. Also check out the ballot on page 11 in this issue of the Bay Area Reporter. ▼

Still time to be B.A.R. star!

by Cynthia Laird

Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Now is your chance as the Bay Area Reporter is seeking essays from readers about what LGBT Pride means to them.

Many changes have occurred in the LGBT communities over the years. Younger queers are coming out earlier, which has resulted in gay-straight alliances popping up throughout the country. Older gays and lesbians have seen progress in obtaining equal rights, though much more needs to be done.

And yet, every June, the diverse LGBT communities come together and throw one of the Bay Area's biggest parties, the Pride Parade and related events.

This year, the B.A.R. wants to hear from you, our readers. In 500 words or less, tell us what Pride means to you, and why you participate in what has become both a celebration and a political statement. What makes Pride special? What things should we keep fighting for, and what makes the Bay Area one of the best places to live if you're queer?

We'll run as many responses as we can in our upcoming Pride issue.

Essays must include your name, city, and a daytime phone number for verification. Submissions can be mailed to: B.A.R. Pride Essays, 395 9th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or e-mailed to BARpaper@aol.com. The deadline for entries is Thursday, April 5. ▼

AIDS meeting on Wed.

by Katie Szymanski

Conferences can be fun, educational, and even lifesaving, if not for what they offer then at the very least for furnishing participants with a way to gauge community opinion. AIDS conferences, in particular, are plentiful and never out of fashion, but they often are too expensive or remote for most people to attend.

This Wednesday, March 28, AIDS Community Research Consortium is hosting a free town hall meeting to present the latest

HIV/AIDS information, as introduced at the Eighth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Chicago last month. Speakers will address the many complex questions about HIV and AIDS, the discoveries of current research, and the ever-evolving HIV-related treatment options.

The town hall meeting takes place at the Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, in Redwood City, beginning with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and kicking off the presentation at 7.

For more info, or to RSVP, call (800) 864-2272. ▼

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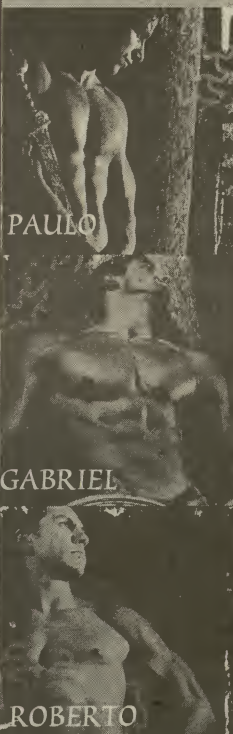
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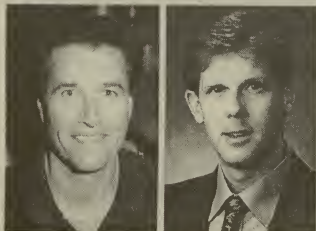
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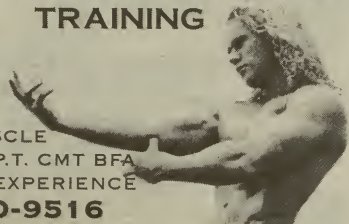
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Jam sandwich

by Jane Warner

Duboce at Guerrero, March 7, 7:20 p.m.: While stopped at the intersection of Duboce and Guerrero, a motorcycle driver and the driver of a convertible Acura got into a heated verbal argument over one another's driving abilities. The driver of the motorcycle started pounding on the Acura's window and then kicked the car door to make his point. As the light turned green, the motorcycle started to pull away. Fearing that damage had been done to his kicked door, the Acura driver drove at an angle, pinning the motorcycle against the car in the next lane. The driver said he did this because, "I needed to get the license plate."

Several people on the corner yelled for him to back up, as the driver of the motorcycle was unable to free himself from the crushing weight of the two cars. The second car in the next lane finally reversed, freeing the motorcyclist, who fell to the pavement. Miraculously, he was unhurt. When police arrived, the two were still arguing. After separating

them and obtaining several bystanders' accounts, officers arrested the driver of the Acura. The 39-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and charged with aggravated assault. His convertible Acura was towed from the scene and booked into evidence.

Red-handed

500 block of Castro, March 4, 4:30 a.m.: During an early morning rain-



Crime & Punishment

storm, a police officer driving by in his patrol car heard what sounded like an electric saw. When he looked over he observed a man trying to cut the lock on a bicycle chained to a parking meter. As the police officer got out of the car, the man looked up, said "Oh, shit," and took off running. The officer gave chase, running down 18th Street near Hartford. As he was about to grab the thief, the officer slipped on wet pavement, falling to the sidewalk. The suspect, described as a white male, 45-50 years old, 200 pounds, with white hair, wearing a brown leather jacket and blue pants, ran up Hartford and into an apartment building on the corner of 17th. Responding officers searched the building but could not find him.

Gang bang

18th and Dolores, March 15, 8:35 p.m.: A man trying to park his car on Dolores Street observed through his rearview mirror headlights approaching at a high rate of speed. The speeding car, described as an older Datsun 280Z, was traveling too fast and plowed into the back of his car. Despite major front-end damage, the 280Z backed up, drove across the grassy median, and sped southbound on Dolores. Approaching 19th, the Datsun lost control and side-swiped three parked cars. The driver, described by witnesses as a white male, 20-25 years old, and his passenger, also a white male in his 20s, jumped out of the car and ran eastbound on 19th toward Guerrero. Responding police were unable to find them.

Anchors aweigh

Starbucks, 4094 18th, March 7, 11:10 a.m.: A passing police officer on bike patrol observed a man using a gray ink marker to graffiti the outside wall of Starbucks. As the officer approached, she saw that the man was drawing what appeared to be a sailing ship. The man looked up and calmly told the officer, "Writing helps me to think and I forgot my writing pad." The 54-year-old man was cited for malicious mischief. ▼

ACT UP/SF members convicted in Project Inform case

by Cynthia Laird

Three members of the AIDS denialist group ACT UP/San Francisco were found guilty last week on misdemeanor charges stemming from an incident last April when the men stormed a Project Inform seminar and threw hard pills at attendees.

Sentencing for ACT UP/SF members David Pasquarelli, Todd Swindell, and Michael Bellefontaine will take place Tuesday, April 3. Pasquarelli and Swindell were found guilty of unlawful public assembly, rioting, and disturbing the peace. They face up to one year in jail. Both men were acquitted of the more serious charge of battery.

Bellefontaine was found guilty of unlawful public assembly. He was acquitted of disturbing the peace and rioting. He faces up to six months in jail.

Pasquarelli and Swindell said they plan to appeal their convictions.

"According to the district at-

torney, the only reason they pursued this case in court was because of the violent battery charges, which ultimately didn't hold up," Bellefontaine said in a statement.

Joseph Garrett, Project Inform's board president, said the verdicts "represent a victory for all people living with HIV/AIDS who seek to educate themselves and make their own decisions about

potentially lifesaving treatments for HIV diseases."

Last year, following the incident, a San Francisco judge issued a preliminary injunction barring Pasquarelli, Bellefontaine, Swindell, and three other ACT UP/SF members from coming within 100 feet of Project Inform's office and employees.

ACT UP/SF members believe that AIDS is over. ▼

LYRIC health fair Sun.

This Sunday, March 25, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center will sponsor a health fair for lesbian, bi, queer, and questioning young women and transgender and intersex youth age 25 and under.

The San Francisco event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Columbia Park Boys and Girls Club, 450 Guerrero Street, will feature speakers and workshop sessions covering topics such as relationships, safer sex, activism, self-defense, and health care.

Interested participants can register for this free event at the door. Those who have special needs can call Phoebe at LYRIC, (415) 703-6150, ext. 12 or send e-mail to phoebe@lyric.org. The fair is wheelchair accessible and ASL interpreted, and food will be provided. ▼

— Liz Highleyman

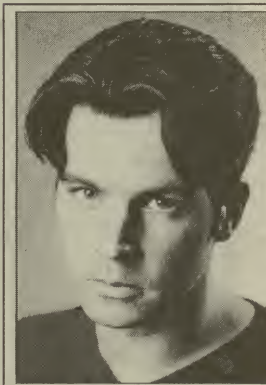
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Berkeley police get training in LGBT issues

by David Fraser

All members of Berkeley's Police Department - from the chief to the civilian staff - have begun receiving formal training in LGBT issues, City Council member Kriss Worthington has announced.

He said Berkeley is the "first city in the world" to train all police employees on the subject. The training started Monday, March 19.

San Francisco's Police Academy trains all new recruits in specifically LGBT issues, and almost every officer in the Police Department has received training formally or informally, according to the academy's commander, Captain Dan Lawson.

Under the heading "Attendance is Mandatory," Berkeley Chief D.E. Butler's departmental order requires department employees to attend the six-hour training "in an on-duty status."

Worthington said the course would spend about two hours on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues and four hours on transgender issues.

A police spokesman said the number of people being trained in various sessions over the next few weeks would be about 300. The BPD has around 200 officers.

The four-hour segments will be led by writer and activist Jamiison Green, an FTM activist. Jami-



From left, Darryl Moore, Peralta College trustee; Linda Maio, Berkeley City Council member; Catherine Ahn, Cal student; Kriss Worthington, Berkeley City Council member; and Nancy Carleton, of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, at Monday's celebration of Berkeley being the first city to train every employee of the Police Department in LGBT issues.

son told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he planned to focus on misperceptions often seen in police departments' treatment of transgender people.

"Male-to-female transgendered people, and crossdressers, are often seen as sex workers and treated in abusive ways, not that sex workers deserve that either," Green said. "Another misperception is they are often seen as untrustworthy, even when they are the victims of crime."

Part of the training will focus on different police circumstances in which transgenders might be victims, witnesses, or suspects.

"It's also possible to have in-

creased penalties for hate crimes against transgendered persons," added Green, who is chair of the organization Gender Education and Advocacy.

Complaints from an FTM a few years ago to the Berkeley Police Review Commission "got this rolling," he said.

Worthington said that the city had faced lawsuits and threats of suits over police treatment of LGBT persons. The training follows his City Council initiative, introduced in January 2000, that prompted the hiring of Sergeant Kelly Gordon, the department's LGBT liaison. ▼



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Carmichael's new trial motion rejected

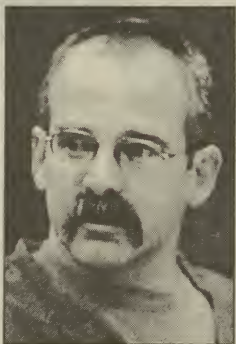
by Cynthia Laird

Prison AIDS activist Brian Patrick Carmichael, who was convicted in January of battery on a peace officer, was denied his motion for a new trial last Friday, March 16, in Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Judge Alden E. Danner set April 13 for the sentencing hearing. Because of Carmichael's prior criminal history, he faces a possible third strike if he is sentenced for the felony battery charge. Last week, Danner accepted Carmichael's motion to have the conviction reduced to a misdemeanor, although there was no discussion on the issue. As with his previous appearances since his January conviction, Carmichael represented himself during last week's hearing.

Carmichael remains in the Santa Clara County jail.

The case against Carmichael stems from an incident that occurred at San Jose International Airport last September as Carmichael stepped off an airplane. Police were waiting at the airport to talk to Carmichael, who while on the airplane in Dallas, got into an argument with a passenger who was occupying a seat Carmichael had been told was reserved for his ill brother. During a scuffle after Carmichael got off the plane, he fell on a police officer, who reported that he suffered an injury as a result. During the arguments for a new trial, however, Carmichael raised questions over



Brian Patrick Carmichael

how the officer was injured, and presented evidence that contradicted the prosecution's case.

In denying the motion for a new trial, Danner, who served as the judge during Carmichael's non-jury trial, said that "good cause has not been shown." He did not elaborate.

Last week, Carmichael did score a legal victory when Danner acknowledged that Carmichael's trial record erroneously contained a "true finding" relating to Health and Safety Code section 121060, concerning the transfer of blood or bodily fluids. Carmichael, who is HIV-positive, argued that the code was not part of the criminal proceeding and should not have been included. Danner said he was correct.

"This court will strike that finding at this time," Danner said. ▼



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A new world view

The world is looking brighter for lesbians and gays as several international developments illustrate that we can effect positive advancements.

The big news this week was that openly gay Bertrand Delanoë has been elected mayor of Paris, a major European city with over 2 million people. We're proud that the voters in the City of Light voted for him; Delanoë will take office this Sunday, but already he has made history as the first openly gay mayor of a major international city.

A quick look at Paris shows that the city faces many of the same problems as San Francisco. Rents have skyrocketed and there is a lack of subsidized housing for low- and middle-income families that has forced many to move to the suburbs where housing is less expensive. Does that sound familiar?

By most accounts, Delanoë is an unassuming man, as was demonstrated by his matter-of-fact coming out a couple of years ago. French writer Frédéric Martel noted that Delanoë's coming out during a television appearance made few waves at the time, and that since then, he has enjoyed the media's favor.

Delanoë has several years of government experience. He served as a member of the National Assembly (lower house of Parliament) for Paris from 1981 to 1986 and is a former spokesman for the Socialist Party. In 1993, he became head of the party and was elected to the Senate in 1995, where he served on the Foreign Affairs and Defense commission.

The phrase "all politics is local" rang true in Paris, where Delanoë struck a chord with the city's residents by focusing on quality of life issues, and his victory is about more than being gay. A Socialist, his election has ended years of conservative domination in Parisian politics, which has deteriorated following much political scandal. A look at his campaign platform shows that Delanoë wants to make Paris "a model of democracy" through the creation of neighborhood councils and financial accountability in government. He also has pledged to establish halfway houses for queer youth rejected by their parents, Martel reported, and to give gay organizations equal access to various government grants the city provides for other civic groups. Significantly, Delanoë also wants to wage an aggressive campaign against anti-gay discrimination and AIDS.

Delanoë also campaigned on citywide issues; he proposes 2,000 new pre-school places and another 2,500 places for young children at community-run establishments. He pledged to keep city taxes "stable," but advocated spending 12.5 billion francs (\$1.8

billion) more for various programs.

But France isn't the only country making news. In the Netherlands officials are gearing up for April 1, when the country will implement gay marriage. Approved last year, the Dutch law means that for the first time a country will allow its same-sex couples to be united in marriage rather than domestic partnership or civil unions. This too is a giant step and demonstrates that gay marriage in one country is just another option for same-sex couples who want a legal union that confers benefits.

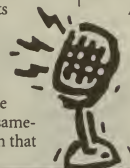
Locally, in San Francisco we have the annual symbolic domestic partner ceremony conducted by Mayor Willie Brown. While meaningful in spirit for those couples who participate, it does nothing to confer legal rights or benefits upon those couples and has no legal standing. Couples can, of course, register as domestic partners with the city or the state, either of which provides some benefits, but they are not married.

We have an uphill fight for even the most basic of rights, as was demonstrated last week when an Assembly committee approved AB25. Assemblywoman Carole Migden's bill would slightly expand the ben-

efits offered under the state domestic partnership registry, which Migden also championed a couple of years ago and which she had to water down in order for Governor Gray Davis to sign it.

One place that hasn't yet caught up to America in terms of progress for equal rights for gays is China, although that country too is making progress. As we reported last week, the Chinese Psychiatric Association announced—after years of quiet efforts—that it is removing homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. The American Psychiatric Association did that back in 1973. Gays in China face formidable obstacles to coming out, which is why the majority live in the closet, unable to participate in the modest gay "scene," which is growing, but at a slow pace.

Yes, the world is changing; old stigmas are falling aside as people, governments, and other groups realize that being gay is not a negative, and not an illness. We wish Mayor-elect Delanoë the best as he prepares to take office and lead a large city that has its share of problems and issues to address. His election brings new life to the old expression, "gay Paree." ▼



Editorial



From here to Amsterdam

by Cheryl Deaner

We in San Francisco pride ourselves as being citizens of "the city that knows how," but Amsterdam is the city that actually does it. On April 1, the last day of Northern California LGBT Family Awareness Week, the Netherlands will grant the same marriage rights to its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender partners as it does to opposite gender partners.

The truth is, California's marriage segregation laws are making even San Francisco look backwards. But the tide can turn: last week, the California Assembly Judiciary Committee approved, on an 8 to 1 vote, Assemblywoman Carole Migden's domestic partnership bill, AB25, which would enhance the benefits of California's statewide domestic partnership registry.

It was just last year that Governor Gray Davis thought it would be safe to veto a similar domestic partners bill and then said that he wouldn't sign any more. If he takes that position again this year on AB25—which confers such basic benefits as allowing domestic partners to list people who can inherit property and allowing partners to make medical treatment decisions for their loved ones—there is going to be a show-down in Sacramento.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, the gay

and lesbian adoption and baby boom continues in full force, with more gay and lesbian foster parents than straight ones in counties like Alameda. Our need to protect partners and our children is obvious. Yet still the far right and religious right are crying that if AB25 passes, our families and their children might enjoy 11 (out of thousands) of the civil rights that their own families enjoy.

This segregation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender partners, families, and their children thrives in the language of archaic marriage laws. And it is the use of this wedge by the far right and religious right that helps keep homophobia looking "normal" under the law. Like many oppressive situations, we have lived with partner discrimination for so long that it takes something like the wrongful death lawsuit of Sharon Smith, the non-legally recognized life partner of Diane Whipple, the woman mauled to death by a dog, to even contrast what is so very wrong about the way things are.

One of the highlights of Family Awareness Week will take place this year on Thursday, March 29. Seventy-five loving couples will enter into domestic partnership with each other under the Rotunda in San Francisco's City Hall. This is the closest step to

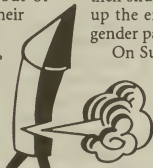
legal marriage available to same-gender life partners in San Francisco. Yet just two days later, the practical Dutch will simply replace the words "husband and wife" in its civil law with the word "partners."

We can take lessons from the Netherlands, where gay and lesbian citizens and their straight allies worked together to speed up the end of homophobia against same gender partners and their families.

On Sunday, April 1 at 5 p.m. at Harvey Milk Plaza (17th and Castro streets) join Marriage Equality California, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the offices of Mayor Brown and Assemblywoman Migden, Supervisor Mark Leno, immigration rights groups, and All Our Families Coalition.

We will celebrate the achievement of marriage equality in the Netherlands, because the Dutch have done for their people what our own country has not been willing to do for us. But now, it is our time to turn the tide. ▼

Cheryl Deaner, a marriage and family therapist, is executive director of All Our Families Coalition. For more information about Family Week activities, call AOF at (415) 681-1960.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

TICs needed

Your article, "Proposed ordinance protects renters and owners alike," in the March 8 edition of the BAR contained many inconsistencies and misstatements.

Tenancies-in-common or TICs are the most affordable way to own a home. Professional tenant activist, Robert Haaland, cynically claims that "buying a home in San Francisco is out of the reach for 90 percent of our gay brothers and sisters." False. Two people can purchase a \$400,000 TIC with incomes of around \$40,000 per year. The cost for living in your own home can be considerably less than many people are currently paying to rent! The extremists are vilifying these moderate income renters that want to own their home as "greedy real estate speculators" partaking in "get-rich-quick schemes."

Much of San Francisco's neighborhood and architectural charm is the direct result of our gay brothers and sisters who bought, renovated, and lived in their own property. It is unfair, insulting, and stupid to label those who led the fight for gay rights (and often suffered for it) as "greedy real estate speculators." They worked hard for their place in the sun and they eventually got it - no thanks to the likes of Robert Haaland or Chris Daly.

Instead of turning against our friends and neighbors that own property, we must fight the professional activists to preserve our hope of home ownership.

Voters in eight of 11 districts rejected the limits on TICs proposed in Proposition N last November. Nonetheless, Chris Daly has introduced legislation that amounts to a practical ban on these affordable homes because it eliminates a crucial element in every TIC sale - the exclusive right of occupancy agreement. These agreements specify who has the legal right to occupy specific units in a multiple unit building. Who is going to buy an apartment without a guarantee that the other owners of the building cannot move into their home? Furthermore, the total number of TICs and condominium conversions will be limited to 200 per year in a city of 700,000 people.

This legislation will result in more Ellis Act evictions. The best way to avoid eviction is to buy your own apartment. This bit of wisdom, commonplace throughout the general population, is totally lost on the professional activists. If people are prevented from owning the most affordable units in the city, they will continue to be vulnerable to the Ellis Act - a state law that allows property owners to go out of the rental property business.

Some organizations, such as the Tenants Union, use volunteers to make lawyer referrals to wealthy out-of-town lawyers at the same time they charge tenants fees for "counseling." Other activists, such as Robert Haaland, are simply lawyers themselves and benefit directly from the expensive litigation that has resulted from thousands of housing regulations. One has to hope that the special interests of corporations, professional tenant activists and lawyers will give way to the interests of the working people of San Francisco. Please join working San Francisco renters in opposing this misguided measure.

Joseph Capko
Tenants for Homeownership
San Francisco

TIC legislation needed

Thank you for your article regarding evictions for tenancies-in-common. I was pleasantly surprised to see an article that challenges lies that the real estate industry put forth during last fall's election.

As a gay male renter who has seen many lower- and middle-income community members evicted in the past two years, I was frustrated to see gay real estate speculators lie about Proposition N. The real estate agents said it was "anti-gay" to want a limit on tenancies-in-common. What would they call the eviction of hundreds of their LGBT sisters and brothers in the name of profit? Pro-gay civic mindedness?

While TICs are not inherently bad, they are currently abused in such a way that the better-off benefit at the expense of everyone else. We need the legislation currently before the board to limit evictions for TICs so that non-rich LGBT people and their families can continue to live in this city.

Seth Ubogy
San Francisco

TICs used as stopgap

Thank you for your recent coverage of efforts by the Board of Supervisors to close a loophole in the rent control ordinance that allows hundreds of LGBT tenants to be evicted by speculators each year. The Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club commends Supervisor Daly's revival of Sue Bierman's legislation to close the TIC loophole in the condo conversion law. It is a much-needed remedy to stop the economic decimation of our community, particularly among young LGBT individuals who cannot afford to buy condos at exorbitant prices.

Under Mayor Feinstein, hardly a radical, the city decided to limit conversion of rental units to condos because such conversions displaced tenants who could not afford to purchase condominiums. During

the recent boom, real estate speculators realized that they could use TIC ownership as a loophole to avoid the condo conversion caps. It works like this: speculators buy a building, evict all tenants under the Ellis Act, then sell the units as TICs. Once all the units are sold, the new owners convert the TICs to condominiums. Thus, tenants are displaced, affordable rental units are forever lost, and there is no gain in TIC ownership. TICs are used as a stopgap. They are not the goal of such purchases.

Daly's legislation does not limit TIC purchases; it limits illegitimate conversions of rental units to condos via TICs as a stopgap. LGBT individuals still could use TICs to approximate the inheritance status of married couples under Daly's legislation. It only limits bogus TICs which are used to circumvent condo conversion limits.

Thus, Daly's legislation is not "bad for gays," as some have disingenuously suggested. It is simply bad for gay real estate speculators who wish to profit from the evictions of members of the LGBT community. We urge your readers to support this protection for our community.

Jerry Threet, President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Still 'queer' in eyes of law

The queerest place in America! Even I did a double take the first time I saw the new banner with that message draped across the soon-to-be San Francisco LGBT Community Center on Market Street. Can they get away with that, I wondered? Won't that make some people uncomfortable?

But then, that's exactly the point.

In a city where we're "mainstream" - where gay men serve on the Board of Supervisors, a lesbian woman represents us in the state Assembly and a queer-friendly mayor appoints transgender commissioners - it's easy to get too comfortable and forget that our community still has a very long way to go for equal rights.

As executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, I know too well that our relationships and our families are still very "queer" in the eyes of the law. So let's tell it like it is. Until the law treats everyone the same, we can never let our straight allies - or ourselves - get too smug or complacent. Bravo to the SF Community Center for a fresh reminder.

Kate Kendell, Executive Director
National Center for Lesbian Rights

An insult

I consider being called queer an insult. It has a bad connotation and is a controversial topic. I thought the center was to be accepting to all gays. Using the term queer and even worse, putting up signage, will discourage those in the community from using the center and serve as a deterrent for those who would have a hard time "crossing that line" and need the center the most. I am accepted for who am. I am not a freak of nature so I don't call myself a freak. I am not queer, I am gay! I am striving to be accepted as another member in our diverse society and will not further that goal by referring to myself as if I should be considered an oddity. As soon as I heard of the plans for the center I made a \$35 donation which at that time was a lot for me. Since then my situation has improved considerably. A year ago I lost my best friend who suffered a heart attack at Club Universe. I was preparing to make a large donation in his honor to get his name on something. When I saw the sign on the building I immediately canceled that plan. I would really like my \$35 back because if I knew you were going to use the facility to go forward with the view that promoting non-acceptance would gain acceptance, I would have not contributed to the project.

Steve Cohen
San Francisco

Diamonds are real

I would call it another case of frantic defense by blaming the victim, except Sharon Smith just doesn't have a victim bone in her body. Robert Noel wants us to believe that Smith's commitment to Diane Whipple was somehow lacking because they had not registered as domestic partners. A marriage of seven years filled with love and devotion is denied. This just because Sharon and Diane did not choose to give each other the cubic zirconia of marriage straight society graciously affords us: domestic partnership. Looks like they were holding out for the real diamond: legal marriage. After all, it's what most straight couples give each other.

Diane made her commitment to Sharon clear when she hand wrote a will leaving Sharon everything. That document clearly and sufficiently demonstrates her commitment to Sharon. Sharon's courage and fierce determination to fight for Diane even after her death come as a resounding "I do." They are married. Don't let straight America deny them their rights because they, like many of us, failed to show sufficient deference and humble gratitude for a demeaning sub-

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stitute for marriage. Honor Diane and Sharon's marriage now. Their diamonds are real.

Nicola Simmersbach
Sacramento, California

What's behind controversy?

Some of San Francisco's African Americans are homophobic. They hate gays. Some of the gay folk in town are racists. They especially don't like blacks. Both groups of haters are minorities within their communities, thank God.

Who is right, the Housing Authority of the new Board of Supervisors? What's really behind the Dunlop/King controversy?

As a same-gender loving black, it's hard to pick sides. I am sure about some things, however. HIV rates are climbing in each of my communities. Both of my peoples are dying.

By working together, marginalized groups can better address housing and health issues. We must acknowledge our differences yet still build coalitions.

Jacob Jacobs
San Francisco

Homophobia and hip-hop

Victoria A. Brownworth's statement that "homophobia is a basic tenet of rap and hip-hop" is both ridiculous and racist ("Let's do the time warp again," *Lavender Tube*, March 1).

While some hip-hop artists have recorded and/or expressed homophobic/heterosexist lyrics/statements, most have not. If Brownworth were an avid listener or a responsible cultural critic, she would know this.

Also, the idea that homophobia is a "basic tenet" of the genre is yet another variation on the theme perpetrated by Caucasian queers that "black people are more homophobic." It's not a coincidence that we've never heard Brownworth or others proclaim something similar about rock, heavy metal, or punk when many of their artists have also engaged in verbal gay bashing.

I am not surprised at Brownworth's ignorance and arrogance. Her contemptuous swipe at a culture she knows absolutely nothing about is so indicative of the Caucasian queer press' mishandling of the whole Eminem episode. Just like GLAAD, she and many of her journalistic cohorts have ignored the fact that there is a sizable segment of the non-heterosexual populace who not only love the music but live it. But since most of those folks are African American men who reject white-constructed labels such as gay and queer, their voices do not count nor matter. As with the controversies surrounding the Million Man March, neo-conservative Alveda King, gospel singers Angie & Debbie Winans, and pro-football player Reggie White, an opportunity has been missed to analyze the intersections between race and sexuality (as well as racism and homophobia), and same-gender loving people of color are once again rendered invisible.

James Earl Hardy
New York, New York

[Victoria Brownworth responds: While Mr. Hardy might wish misogyny and homophobia weren't basic to the majority of rap, they are. Obviously Mr. Hardy doesn't listen to this music as we do, nor has he heard black leaders campaign against its content (C. Dolores Tucker, the Association of Black Clergy, etc.) Of course there are rappers and hip-hop artists who don't ascribe to hate speech, like Coolio and Lauren (sic) Hill, but they are exceptions. Listen to top artists Snoop Dog, Corrupt and ODB, who parallel Eminem. We suggest Mr. Hardy object to the real error - fostering homophobia and misogyny - rather than placing blame on those who report the facts.]

Body is not a punching bag

This is regarding Paula Martinac's Lesbian Notions column entitled "Gays & guns: A risky mix" [March 1]. Basically, the column argues that it is unwise for gay people to carry firearms as a means of self-defense. Early on in the piece, the author acknowledges that, "While we spend valuable money and time lobbying a resistant Congress for inclusion in the federal hate crimes act, lesbians and gay men continue to be bashed and killed." Since she does not feel that arming ourselves is an appropriate response, Ms. Martinac offers "queer safety patrols" as a possible solution.

I could not help but wonder if Ms. Martinac had ever been a victim of anti-gay violence. Certainly, I hope that she is never attacked. However, if she were placed in fear of her life, would she rather that armed fellow gay men and women were nearby or that her cries might be heard by a "queer safety patrol"?

Granted, Ms. Martinac does acknowledge "the frustration in the queer community about our inability to protect ourselves" but seems eager to steer the reader away from the very means by which we can end this violence. Ms. Martinac cites the attention given

an article by Jonathan Rauch in which he supports gays using firearms to defend themselves. While saying that it would be easy to dismiss his position as a "gay male right" issue, her argument nonetheless subtly makes that very assertion. While it does seem true that Mr. Rauch supports such self-protection, he makes a very compelling argument: If Matthew Shepard had a gun, he would be alive today.

With the exception of the anti-male bias, a year and a half ago, I might have agreed with Ms. Martinac. About that time, I was using a pay phone near Divisadero at 1 p.m. when I was thrown to the ground by two thugs. They took turns kicking and punching me while shouting, "faggot." My arm was broken along with my liberal spirit. I would have given anything to have had a weapon at the moment the attack occurred. Since that time, I have taken lessons at a firing range and purchased a .38-caliber pistol. I simply will not trust police, Congress, or anyone else to protect me. My body is not a punching bag for assholes that happen to hate gays.

We dwell in a society that does little to protect us. Schools avoid teaching that gays are a normal segment of society who deserve the respect and protection afforded to all members. We are slandered and defamed in most pulpits in America with churchgoers being taught that God loves everyone except gay people. "Our" government will not acknowledge our relationships, allow us to serve openly in the military, keep our children, ensure that we are housed without discrimination, or to protect jobs in which we otherwise excel. A product of this society is the hoards of roaming small-minded bashers who feel that they have a right to beat and to kill us. An armed gay community would forever end the perception of us as "an easy target" for such bashers.

Sure, I would rather live in a society in which all members are treated with respect and dignity. When such a society evolves, I will leave my handgun at home. Until that time, I feel much safer carrying a weapon. It certainly will not ensure that I won't be attacked but it can keep me (and those I love) from becoming victims.

Jim Madison
San Francisco

Hollow arguments

Dale Carpenter's broadside against the Cuban revolution ("Gay Cuba Libre!" March 8) showcases the increasingly hollow and shopworn arguments used by those gay intellectuals who struggle mightily to subordinate the fight for gay rights to the demands of U.S. foreign policy. They hope by demonstrating their unswerving loyalty that they can win a few crumbs of recognition from the Democratic and Republican parties. His approach mirrors that of liberal activists dating back to the 1960s who wax indignant about conditions in Cuba, real or imagined, while letting the U.S. government off the hook for its continuing campaign of terrorism and economic warfare against that country. That the U.S. is today spending billions to prop up backward, violent regimes like Colombia's whose records on gay rights make Cuba's past errors look like spilt milk is of no interest to them.

Clearly, the main tactic of these patriots, highlighted in Carpenter's piece and dramatized in Reinaldo Arenas's memoir *Before Night Falls* is to focus on those past errors while ignoring recent positive changes that have led many gays and lesbians to defend the revolution. Perhaps the most significant of these changes, and one carefully ignored in Carpenter's diatribe, is the Cuban government's universally praised AIDS policy. All PWAs, regardless of sexual identity, are guaranteed their jobs and provided medical care and decent housing free of charge. It is instructive to compare this reality with Arenas's fate after gaining entry to the land where "basic guarantees ... apply even to us," as Carpenter puts it. After coming down with AIDS, Arenas quickly became destitute from the continuing struggle to get proper medical care. Homeless and alone, he committed suicide in 1990. If the first of all human rights is the right to life with dignity, one might ask how much freedom Arenas really won, and how much he lost, by fleeing Cuba for the United States.

We should remember that the modern gay and lesbian rights struggle was inspired by the movement against a previous U.S. attempt to support a corrupt, semi-colonial regime in Vietnam. If history is our guide, we must reject Dale Carpenter's hypocritical claims and demand an end to the embargo on Cuba and the removal of all U.S. military forces from the region.

Peter Anastos
San Francisco

[Dale Carpenter responds: Not one word of my column indicated support for any aspect of current U.S. policy toward Cuba. I'm not sure why Anastos would assume otherwise, unless he makes the mistake of equating criticism of Castro with support for all measures against the dictator. There's a reliable way to measure the quality of life in a country. Ask a simple question: Which way does the human traffic flow across its borders? In or out? On that score, Castro's regime has not only been a failure. It has been a disaster.]

POLITICS

Gray Davis running hard for re-election

by Wayne Friday

Anyone who believes that Governor **Gray Davis's** time is completely consumed by the state's ongoing energy crisis, or that next year's gubernatorial election is totally off the gov's radar screen, needs only to look at some of his recent public appearances to realize that the 2002 governor's race is very clearly on Davis's mind.

Not only has Davis already banked a whopping \$26 million toward his re-election, he has reportedly already put together a re-election staff that supposedly has his 2002 campaign well under way. To be sure, Davis is spending the majority of his time trying to find a solution to California's electricity problems, but he is also very busy campaigning — well, at least making dozens of public appearances — toward his re-election in November 2002.

A Democratic opponent for Davis in the March 2002 primary? Not likely, since no Democrat of any significance would dare oppose the first Democrat to win the state's top office in 16 years. As for his Republican opponent next year, Davis and his political operatives feel that their eventual GOP opponent will be California Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, who will be under fire from his current office; Jones is the only Republican to currently hold a statewide constitutional office.

Jones reportedly feels he can use the energy issue as an effective political issue against Davis in next year's gubernatorial contest, but I wouldn't be too sure. Davis is good — very good — at reminding the press and the voters that he "inherited" this energy crisis from the Republicans. Indeed it was under former Governor **Pete Wilson** that the deregulation took place and Davis is only too happy to exclaim repeatedly that "I inherited this ... 12 years prior to my governorship, not a single major power plant was built in California. Since I became governor, nine have been approved and six are under construction."

Can Jones really ride the California power crisis into a successful bid to replace Davis next year? I don't think so. Besides, Jones cannot seem to make up his mind as to whether or when he will make his candidacy a reality. Despite the noises from **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** press agents, or the fact that banker **William E. Simon Jr.** has millions of his personal fortune to spend if he were to run for governor, it's likely neither will enter the race, so Jones, with a pithy \$120,000 in current campaign funds (compared to \$26 million for Davis) will probably end up a Republican sacrificial lamb against Davis next year.

To be sure, political lightning could always strike for Jones, but it is highly unlikely. So, who would be the 800-pound gorilla in a Davis-Jones contest? Here's a clue — Davis held a news conference one day last week on a lone gravel field 20 miles outside Sacramento in front of a power plant. Despite the fact that he was an hour late



Supervisor Mark Leno congratulates Sarah Marshall, who was recognized as a woman making history at Monday's board meeting

and little advance press notice had been given, eight television cameras and 20 reporters showed up.

Jones, on the other hand, held a highly-touted press conference last week in Los Angeles, one of the country's top media markets, and drew two TV cameras and six reporters. Asked about this, an aide to Jones complained to the *Los Angeles*

Times that "the secretary of state has no power over energy." Right, and he doesn't have \$26 million in campaign funds in the bank either.

The bottom line is that Davis has effectively managed to give the public the impression that he is busy trying to fix the energy crisis, and he is being given high marks from the public for doing so. Davis should be easily re-elected next year, and while the energy crisis is definitely the major issue that state Republicans have against the governor, Davis has managed to make that very crisis work in his favor, despite the threat of rolling blackouts, dimmed lights, and higher electricity bills. A Davis-Jones race for governor next year should be a piece of cake for the governor.

Politics and people

At Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting, the Commission on the Status of Women had each supervisor name a woman making history to honor, as March is Women's History Month. Supervisor **Mark Leno** selected **Sarah Marshall**, co-chair of the city's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. Marshall, a business professional, committed herself to a visible activist career in 1997 when she volunteered to serve on the board of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center. She is committed to changing society's perspective of transgender people and lectures on that topic regularly.

Democrats in San Jose are saying that Representative **Zoe Lofgren** (16th District) is growing weary of Washington and might very well come back to run against San Jose Mayor **Ron Gonzales** when his term ends next year; the

two once served together on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and have never been real friends.

And in Los Angeles, my contacts are saying that the April 10 Los Angeles mayoral race will put either millionaire Republican businessman **Steve Soboroff** or openly gay Councilman **Joel Wachs** into a runoff against City Attorney **Jim Hahn**; Wachs has the better name ID, but Soboroff has the personal big bucks for a last-minute TV push.

In Washington, D.C., wags from both major parties are saying that the rift between President **George W. Bush** and Senator **John McCain** (R-Arizona) has once again reached the point that regardless of the outcome of McCain's campaign reform finance legislation, the possibility is now high that the Arizona maverick is already thinking of bolting Bush and the GOP in 2004 and seeking the presidency as an independent.

Also in D.C., Dubya is taking a lot of heat for caving in to pressure from energy producers (who were among his largest campaign contributors) by flip-flopping on his campaign promise to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. Unfortunately, the plan to ease global warming and improve the nation's air quality will now take a back seat to politics as Bush's promised energy pledge goes up in smoke. Pundits of both parties agreed on the morning talk shows Sunday that Bush's flip-flop also severely undermines the credibility of his EPA administrator, **Christie Todd Whitman**. Whitman was in Italy recently where she talked about regulating carbon dioxide emissions; last week she learned shortly before his announcement that Bush was abandoning his campaign pledge.

Meanwhile, I'm told you can add the name of Supervisor **Gerardo Sandoval** (District 11) to those looking to succeed Shelley despite the fact he's only been in his City Hall job a couple of months.

And some Hall of Justice gossips are saying that we can expect an "interesting" twist soon in the race for public defender between incumbent **Kimiko Burton** and her challenger **Jeff Adachi**.

And how was your week? ▼

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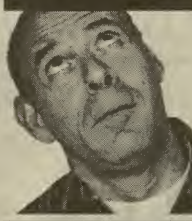
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Sodomites and morality in Texas

by Dale Carpenter

Having produced three of the past eight presidents, Texas may be in a mood to boast. But it has no room for pride about continuing to brand its gay citizens as criminals. A recent Texas appeals court decision upholding the constitutionality of the state's sodomy law only adds to its shame. The opinion is not only thinly reasoned, but it has the disturbing appearance of judicial capitulation to political pressure.

John Geddes Lawrence and Tyronne Garner were convicted of violating the Texas sodomy law (as it's popularly known), which makes "deviate sexual intercourse" between two people of the same sex illegal. "Deviate sexual intercourse" has a specific statutory definition in Texas but, as you can imagine, it includes just about anything fun two people can do sexually. Before 1974, the law equally barred deviate heterosexual intercourse, but state legislators restricted it to apply only to gay sex when they realized the law made sodomites of most of their constituents.

Lawrence and Garner appealed their convictions to a Houston appeals court. To the surprise of many, two out of three Republican judges on the appeals court agreed that the sodomy law was unconstitutional under the Texas Equal Rights Amendment, which prohibits government discrimination on the basis of sex.

That holding was an especially brave judicial act. Judges in Texas are elected in partisan elections following party primaries. Any unpopular decision by a Republican judge risks the wrath of the extremely loud and well-organized contingent of religious conservatives who dominate the state GOP.

Sure enough, learning of the judges' decision to free the sodomites, local Republican Party activists, including a county chairman, circulated a draft letter demanding that the judges reverse their decision or resign their offices.

In this charged atmosphere, the state of Texas appealed to the en-

tire, all-Republican appeals court. In a 7-2 vote last week, with the two judges on the original panel sticking to their guns, the appeals court held the state sodomy law constitutional. The poverty of the majority's reasoning contributes to the appearance that the judges were influenced more by pressure politics than by law.

Under our constitutional system, every law must, at a minimum, be rational. There is no place in for purposeless or arbitrary state regulation. Further, even judicial conservatives agree that a law adopted because of animus against a group of people is a violation of the principle that all must enjoy the "equal protection" of the laws.

Legislative enactments must, at the very least, serve a legitimate governmental interest. Under settled constitutional law, the bare desire to harm or disadvantage a politically unpopular group is not a legitimate interest.

What is the interest served by a sodomy law prohibiting deviate gay sex, but not deviate straight sex? The state of Texas cited only one: the preservation of traditional morality. The majority opinion called such a justification "almost unreviewable," meaning that judges are not free to second-guess it. If the state says that a law is justified by "morality," in the view of these judges, that is the end of the matter.

The problem with this conclusion is that it is an almost complete abdication of the judicial function. It's one thing to say judges should be restrained, and cautious, in overturning the decisions of legislative majorities. It's another thing entirely to abandon the effort to enforce the Constitution once the state utters the word morality.

In this case, the state of Texas made no attempt to show how a same-sex-only sodomy ban advanced the cause of morality. Laws targeting gay sex, and only gay sex, are relatively novel in American law. They appeared for the first time in 1969, the same year as the Stonewall riot. Before that,

sodomy laws applied equally to opposite sex couples. Only four states other than Texas even have such a discriminatory law. Whatever interest there may be in preserving a sodomy ban between gay couples, but not between straight couples, it lacks a firm basis in the country's traditions and history.

A law truly aimed at preserving traditional morality would apply equally to heterosexual sex. Yet in Texas, even unmarried opposite sex couples are free to have all the deviate sex their loins desire. "It is manifestly illogical to suggest that sodomy, when performed by heterosexuals promotes morality and family values, and that the same acts when performed by same sex couples, denigrates morality and family values," wrote the Republican dissenters.

Further, if a state need only cite some vague "morality" as a justification for a law, then there are no practical limits on a state's power to target particular groups. Any law could be justified on that basis, even a law that had no real purpose other than the impermissible one to reflect society's animus toward the group targeted. That cannot be right in a constitutional republic.

The dissenters dismissed the state's talk of preserving traditional morality "as nothing more than politically-charged, thinly-veiled, animus-driven cliché." That candor may cost them dearly in the next election.

The case now goes to the court of last resort for criminal matters in Texas, where Lawrence and Garner will face nine more Republican judges who must survive the next GOP primary. After they lose there, the next step is the U.S. Supreme Court, where the justices will finally have a chance to reverse their own mistaken decision to uphold a sodomy law 15 years ago. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at OutRight@abl.com.

Hidden public sex OK in Massachusetts

by Liz Highleyman

Earlier this month, the Massachusetts State Police released new guidelines indicating that police would no longer automatically arrest people cruising for or engaging in sex in certain public areas. According to the guidelines, sexual activity at rest areas, beaches, parks, and similar areas would not be considered illegal if it was hidden from public view.

The new policy, released March 1, is the outcome of a lawsuit filed by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders on behalf of a gay man who was banned from highway

rest areas after being convicted of having sex with another man in the woods near a rest stop in Wareham, on Cape Cod. Middlesex Superior Court Judge Wendie Gershengorn overturned the man's rest area expulsion, leading police to issue an informal public sex policy in October 1999.

The recent order, which amends the state police manual, is a formalization of the 1999 policy. According to the new guidelines, "socializing and expressions of affection" should not be considered sexual conduct, and sexual activity itself is not illegal unless there is "substantial risk" that it will be observed by a passerby. "The state police don't want to in-

fringe upon anybody's rights," said state police Captain Robert Bird, "and I think this order will help clarify exactly what those rights are."

According to GLAD's Mary Bonauto, many gay men have complained over the years that they have been harassed by police for gathering in public places. Said Bonauto, "This order ... is an incredibly positive first step. The most important thing is that officers may not order someone to leave an area in the absence of criminal activity. It doesn't matter that the officer thinks they may have unlawful intent. It's not the job of the state police to be the thought police." ▼

COMMENTARY

What are you, really?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

This time around, my column may have a little more vitriol than normal. You see, I recently made a mistake: I turned on a television talk show.

The show's host would introduce a transman, then encourage the audience to shout out their guess on whether that person was "really" a man or a woman. By show's end, all was revealed, and we knew just who was assigned male at birth, and who was trying to pull a fast one on the eagle-eyed audience members.

I wonder what it would be like to line up all the talk show hosts, and invite a studio audience to decide which ones were born with a heart, and which ones have always been in it simply for the ratings and advertiser dollars. But talk shows are far too easy to pick on.

This need for the audience to point out who was the real man—and who was wearing a disguise—was what struck me. I was reminded of the few times I've heard strangers shout out their best guess as to what I am. It is as if they, having figured that there was something about me that sets me apart from others of my gender, felt some primal need to point it out to everyone within earshot.

It points to a simple fact. A truthism that surprises by its simplicity, and shocks by the implications. Transgendered people, in our society, are viewed as people so seemingly dishonest, that we are setting out to deceive any time we express a preferred gender.

This fact is visible everywhere. News stories always strive to tell just what name and gender a transperson was given at birth, and often wouldn't even make the



paper if there wasn't a transgendered person involved. Whether it's living in an all-women's dorm

a la *Bosom Buddies*, or getting away with murder, television and movies have shown us images of people crossdressing in order to accomplish their insidious goals. Advertisements for tequila, razor blades, and computer virus software have marketed themselves on pointing out what that beautiful woman or blushing bride really is.

The concept that transgendered people are simply out to hoodwink others has been at the heart of most recent legal issues that have been faced by transgendered people, from Christie Lee Littleton, whose legally changed birth certificate was tossed out because the Texas courts knew she was "really a man," to an Ohio transsexual who was disallowed a name change last month in Ohio, because—to quote Judge Randy Rodgers—"allowing the applicant to change his [*sic*] name to that of a woman would be confusing and misleading to others."

I guess that Judge Rodgers assumes that it won't be "confusing and misleading" when people interact with a person who is presenting as a woman but has a male name that they cannot get rid of.

And that is where the question of who we are—that is, who we are really—gets a little complicated.

Because I don't believe that most transgendered people are trying to deceive anyone about just what we are. We're certainly not trying to get away with anything: what's to get away with? Instead, we are trying to show you the truth that we carry in our hearts.

That's what I am doing. I am showing you exactly who I am, displaying a truth that goes much deeper than my flesh.

The only time I have truly felt I was setting out to deceive anyone was while trying to hide my feelings about being transgendered. Not that I didn't learn to do a fine job of concealing my feelings. I would even say that I became quite expert at applying a false persona as a mild mannered male. I had it all down: I was a master at the swagger, and an old hand at being

keep up such an elaborate charade, even with biology and history as willing co-conspirators. But yet, when I show who I really am, I end up with the equivalent of that talk show audience, trying to puzzle out what they think I really am.

How can one strive for honesty when their only options are to lie about what is in their heart, or be called a liar for showing it? How can we get to a place where society can value the gender I present over a gender I was assigned three decades ago?

Maybe it starts with this column, and I can hope that you'll walk away from reading it with a little better understanding of what a transperson is doing when we lay bare our visions of ourselves for the world to see. You'll see that it is honesty we are showing, not

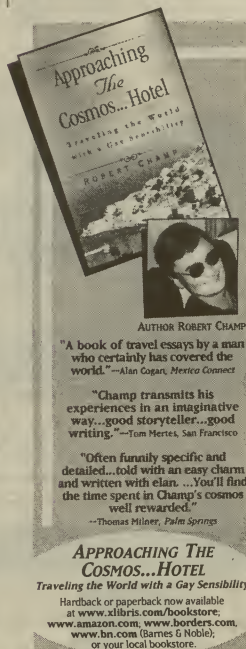
the "strong silent type."

Only once was I spotted as something other than the perfect specimen of manhood I so desperately tried to portray, and that was back in high school when a female friend of mine, noting my dark glasses and bushy facial hair, said that it all made me look as if I was trying to hide something. It took me about 15 years, but I recently found her e-mail address on the Web and let her know that yes, she was completely right.

I gave up trying to deceive. It simply took too much energy to try and

deception. A truth beyond biology. Really. ▼

Gwen Smith has no more bridges for sale, but can make you a killer deal on dot-com stock options. She can be found on the web at www.gwensmith.com.



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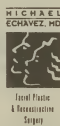
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Anti-gay harassment down slightly, but still present under DADT

by Bob Roehr

Anti-gay harassment in the U.S. military is down slightly from the all time high of last year, said Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. He hopes that it is the beginning of a trend but admits that it could be just a statistical blip.

That conclusion was part of "Conduct Unbecoming: The Seventh Annual Report on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass' (DADT)." It is the most recent installment of SLDN's continued evaluation of the policy, released on March 15.

"It was like birthing triplets," said Osburn of the report. "It is bigger than anything that we've ever done before. We just have more to say."

SLDN documented 1,472 violations of the policy in 2000, down from 1,685 the previous year. That is a decline of about 12 percent. But it still ranked higher by far than any other of the five previous years that the policy has been in existence.

Because so much public attention had focused on violations of DADT, and new policies had been announced, some people had anticipated a greater decline of incidence of anti-gay harassment in 2000.

Last March the Pentagon's inspector general issued a report on a survey it conducted among 75,000 service members. It found that 80 percent had heard anti-gay comments within the military during the previous year, while 37 percent had witnessed or experi-



SLDN's Dixon Osburn

enced anti-gay harassment. A majority said that their leaders took no steps to condone or control that harassment.

Then in July the Department of Defense adopted an Anti-Harassment Action Plan. However, the SLDN report slammed the Pentagon brass for failing to issue orders implementing that plan.

It called that failure "inexcusable" and "irresponsible" in light of the anti-gay murders of sailor Alan Schindler in 1992 and soldier Barry Winchell in 1999, and the widespread nature of harassment as documented by the military's own studies.

The report singled out the Army for going farthest in implementing training programs to stop harassment and in holding officers accountable for the atmosphere and incidents in their command. The other services have done relatively little in these areas.

Osburn speculated that this was because the latest incident

that gained widespread public attention, Winchell's murder and the trial of his killers, focused attention on the Army. The decline in total number of incidents over the past year occurred primarily in the Army.

SLDN's data indicated that officers seem to be "asking" about sexual orientation less frequently than before, while rank and file service members continue to "ask" of their peers. This suggests that real and fair implementation of DADT is beginning to seep down into the field, but still has a long way to go.

The report said, "If military leaders are committed to stopping questions about sexual orientation, they must discourage enlisted members from harassing each other about their personal lives." It called for full implementation of training and accountability in administering DADT. Accountability should apply "not only those who engage in harassment, but those who condone it."

Pentagon spokesman Admiral Craig Quigley said that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld intends to issue an anti-harassment directive, but "in the meantime, there should be no doubt in any service member's mind that their service does not tolerate harassment."

"We now stand at a political crossroads," said Osburn. "The question is whether the Bush administration will do what the Clinton administration failed to do and enforce DADT with fairness and compassion." ▼

Copies of the report are available at www.sldn.org.

Warriors fan wants apology from Kings player for alleged anti-gay, racist outburst

by Ed Walsh

Warriors season ticket owner, Michael Ching, is demanding an apology from Sacramento Kings player Jason Williams for what Ching and other witnesses say was an outburst from Williams of anti-gay and racist remarks at a game last month.

Ching told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Williams began his tirade at a game in the Oakland Arena on February 28 after he shouted toward Williams: "Hey Jason, get used to sitting on the bench."

Ching said Williams responded, "Are you gay? Are you a fag?"

"I will shoot you Asian mother-fucker. Do you remember the Vietnam War? I'll kill y'all just like that."

According to Ching and other witnesses, Williams gestured with his hands like he was shooting a gun while he was making machine gun noises.

"It doesn't really affect you until a couple of minutes later where you think, what happens if I run into this guy in the street? And talking about Asian Americans in that way, that's really distressful," Ching said. "My mom

was interned at the Japanese internment camps and my dad was in Pearl Harbor during the bombing and his brothers helped to put out the fires. If there's anyone who is truly American, we are."

Ching filed a formal complaint, and as a result, Williams was fined \$15,000. Ching said one of the Kings owners, Joe Maloof, apologized to him in a phone call last week. This week, he also got a letter of apology and a Kings jacket from the team's vice president of public relations. But Ching said he has yet to get an apology from Williams. An apology, Ching said, Williams owes to the Asian American community.

"The Kings have been standup guys," Ching told the *B.A.R.* "They know that something happened and they're trying to make amends for that, but it's not for them to make amends for. He's the one who made the comments; he should be accountable for that."

Kings' spokesman, Troy Hanson, told the *B.A.R.* that the team is satisfied with the NBA's investigation and fining of Williams. The Kings organization considers the matter closed, he said. When asked whether Williams would apologize to Ching, Hanson said, "That's between them."

"If he was a real man, he'd do that but apparently now he's coming back and saying that he was provoked."

Ching added that good-natured ribbing of the opposing team is something fans have always done.

"I sit right behind the visitors' bench along with the other season ticket holders and we make comments like that all the time with the visiting team. It's just talk about basketball. I don't boo but if someone's shooting bad, I'll remind them of that during the game, as just a fan of the game. A lot of times, they'll come back with, 'Ya, but look who's in last place,' or 'Look at the scoreboard,' or something like that but in this case he just came back at me."

In response to Ching's allegations, Williams told reporters that he was provoked, claiming Ching called him a "skinhead" and "racist." Ching vehemently denies that.

Williams, 25, has had more than his share of troubles. He was suspended earlier this season for five games for violating NBA drug policy and was previously fined \$10,000 for profane remarks he made to fans after a loss in San Antonio last November. ▼

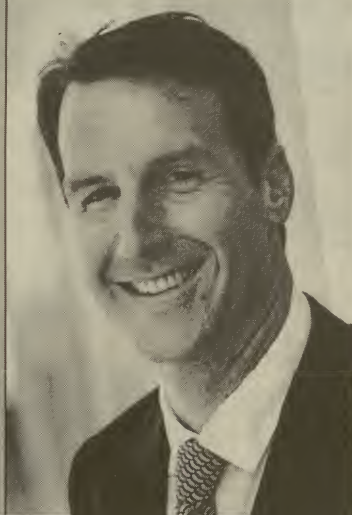
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Marriage talk in New England

by Bob Roehr

Gay and lesbian relationships continued to be a political football in the legislatures of two New England states this past week. And while the rhetoric often was hot and heavy, there is a growing sense that perhaps the fervor of the body politic has broken and calmer days lay ahead.

The Vermont House passed legislation banning gay marriage on March 16 after three hours of highly charged debate. They did so by amending the law to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

That chamber is now dominated by Republicans who won control in the November election with the theme of "Take back Vermont," a reaction to legislation on

gay civil unions enacted earlier in the year under pressure from the state supreme court.

But the House vote is likely to have no practical effect. It does not affect civil unions. Furthermore, it is highly unlikely to even come up for a vote in the Senate, which is controlled by Democrats.

"There is no confusion on what marriage is and what it is not. So why the need to clarify this further?" said openly gay Representative Robert Dostis. His colleague, Bill Lippert, who also is gay, called it "a political bill ... payback to the right wing."

In Connecticut, the judiciary committee of the State Assembly held a hearing on legal recognition of same gender couples. More than 300 people packed the March 16 meeting that lasted five and a half hours. Supporters wore yel-

low stickers bearing the word "Equality," while opponents chose teal and the slogan "Marriage has meaning."

Gay and lesbian couples testified that even after years and sometimes decades of a committed relationship they feared being denied access to their partner in times of medical emergency. They told of unequal treatment in dispensing survivor's benefits and the taxing and transference of estates.

Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford Peter A. Rosazza spoke for Connecticut's six Catholic bishops when he said, "The indispensable good of family to society is eroded when de facto unions, i.e. the cohabitation of two heterosexual or homosexual persons with an implied sexual relationship, are considered equivalent to marriage."

Some Republican legislators suggested that legalizing gay relationships would lead to similar recognition of incestuous and polygamous ones. But Republican Governor John Rowland reserved judgment on the matter until legislation was passed.

No legislation recognizing same gender relationships was pending at the time of the hearing, though openly gay Representative Art Feldman has said he will soon introduce a measure to recognize gay civil unions.

A poll on that subject in the online version of the *Hartford Courant* had drawn a favorable vote from 56 percent of approximately 250 responses, over the course of three days.

"In my opinion, it is just a matter of time before ordinary run-of-the-mill civil marriages are offered to same-sex couples," Representative Michael Lawlor, co-chair of the Judiciary Committee, told the Associated Press. "It's just a matter of how much angst we have to endure to get there." ▼

Homophobic bullying ignored in school shootings

by Katie Szymanski

It has been more than two weeks since Charles Andrew "Andy" Williams brought a gun to Southern California's Santana High School, shooting and killing two of his classmates and injuring more than a dozen. While much of the aftermath discussion from authorities and the media has focused on his depression and accounts of his being the target of bullies, very little has been done to explore reports that Williams, like many teens who have gone on school shooting rampages, was taunted with all-too-familiar derogatory statements that attacked his sexuality and/or manhood.

The silence is deafening, according to the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, the national organization working to combat homophobia in schools.

"In five of the eight major school shootings, the word 'faggot'

or 'gay' has been present, and that pattern is under-reported," Jim Anderson, spokesman for GLSEN, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We know that if five of the eight instances involved the same rock group or video game, journalists would be asking questions. Here, people are looking through the facts to reach any other conclusion, and we think that's a problem."

How the words "faggot" and "gay" are used interchangeably to de-masculinize males, and how males respond to those taunts, is one avenue the media should be exploring, according to Anderson, who acknowledges that bullies who use anti-gay taunts do not always consciously associate the words with homosexuality, but do carry the knowledge that being gay is something not expected of real men.

"The way the word is used in schools should provoke analysis," he said. "We want to be crystal clear that we're not suggesting

anti-gay epithets were the straw that broke the camel's back in this case. But not even addressing the consistent presence of such epithets is a way of accepting their rampant, pervasive use. Those who have the power to ask questions and have decided not to are in effect preserving the status quo." ▼

Supes Peskin to hold town hall meeting Saturday

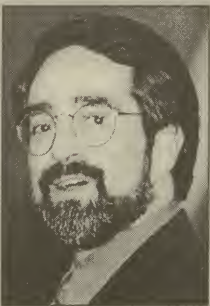
by Cynthia Laird

Building on the success of last month's town hall meeting, District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin will hold a second public gathering with constituents this Saturday, March 24.

The ongoing series of town hall meetings gives residents the opportunity to talk with Peskin on a wide variety of legislative issues, and voice their opinions on pressing concerns, including parking and traffic, Muni, construction, and cleaner streets.

Peskin's office has arranged for representatives from several city agencies to be on hand, including the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Muni, Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Health, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services.

The meeting will take place from 10 a.m. until noon at Spring Valley Elementary School, 1451 Jackson Street, between Hyde and Larkin streets. The school is accessible via Muni's 12 bus line. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Peskin's office at (415) 554-7450. ▼



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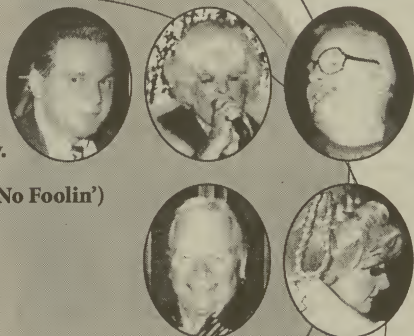
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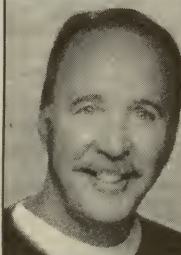
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WOMEN AND MINORITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

ACT UP/Philly member cleared of charges

by Liz Highleyman

On March 12, ACT UP/Philadelphia member Kate Sorenson was acquitted of all felony charges stemming from an arrest last summer at the Republican National Convention.

Sorenson was among 400 demonstrators arrested for participating in demonstrations surrounding the RNC in August; activists were protesting the death penalty, poor health care in prisons, and the lack of access to affordable AIDS drugs, among other issues.

Sorenson, who has been a member of ACT UP for 15 years, first in Los Angeles and then in Philadelphia, was arrested while walking through a park talking on a cell phone. Evidence presented at the trial indicated that police

had her under surveillance for several months. Sorenson, two other ACT UP/Philadelphia members, and John Sellers of the Ruckus Society were branded as "ringleaders" of the protests and held on unprecedented bails as high as \$1 million. Defense attorney Lawrence Krasner called the bails "unconscionable, ridiculous ... and completely off the map from the norm." Sorenson was held in jail for 10 days.

Sorenson was charged with 10 misdemeanor and 10 felony counts, including rioting, risking a catastrophe, and conspiracy. Last Monday, after a three-day trial, a jury cleared her of all felonies. She was found guilty of a single misdemeanor charge of criminal mischief, based on \$1,800 worth of assessed damage that occurred during the protest.

"The city of Philadelphia was

willing to give me 20 years of jail time for \$1,800 worth of damage that I was nowhere near. There is no evidence that I did any of it," Sorenson told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Demonstrating does not equal rioting."

Sorenson was the first defendant with felony charges stemming from the RNC actions to face a jury; 10 other felony defendants await trial. According to Sorenson, in the trials held so far over 90 percent of the defendants have been acquitted.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 1, and Sorenson and her attorneys are considering appealing the remaining conviction. "My family and I thank those who have supported me over the past months of uncertainty," she said. "I'm ready to go back to what I'm supposed to be doing, which is being an AIDS activist." ▼

Barebacking

◀ page 1

ied widely. We evaluated this on a case-by-case basis. [The decision] was not contextual to the merger.

"We had conversations with community activists, with many people," she said. "The decision to remove the room was part of a larger holistic reevaluation of the community services we offer. Part of it was talking to organizations like Stop AIDS and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to find ways we can still provide places for them to promote their education."

The Stop AIDS Project uses an educational outreach model, online and offline, that provides fac-

tual material to people so they can make choices.

Good guys?

Sister MaryMae Himm, of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and an HIV-prevention educator, saw the chat room issue as a moot point.

"Gay.com is trying to ride the sensationalism bandwagon," he told the *B.A.R.* By closing the room about a year after it was opened, "they're scapegoating, pulling out from the fringes. They can appear to be good guys."

Himm, who has written opinion pieces for the *B.A.R.*, opposes the use of the term "barebacking." "I'm a man who occasionally has sex without condoms," he said. A

photo of his naked body, which appeared in an advertisement on a barebacking Web site last year, ran on the newspaper's front page last summer.

Kennedy said that Gay.com's view was that it should not provide a venue which appeared to "promote unsafe sex" practices. She did not have figures for room usage by members, but said that the firm's Web site personnel had surveyed occupants by their screen names.

"We looked repeatedly, and every user was simultaneously in other rooms," she added. "When we removed the barebacking room we put up message boards where people can talk, and there's plenty of information content." ▼

Family Week

◀ page 1

open and welcoming as Berkeley's," said Logan. "I applaud their efforts to serve all families, not just a select few."

The Berkeley YMCA is located at 2001 Allston Way. To RSVP or for more information, call (510) 665-3238. A donation is requested.

Monday, March 26, offers LGBT parents a voice in how the new community center on Market Street will cater to their needs; the All Our Families Coalition and Community Center Project will meet at 1758 Market Street to discuss resources and programming for the center when it opens in the fall. Space is limited; call (415) 681-1960 to reserve.

On Tuesday, March 27, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere is hosting its Volunteer Fair and Teen Panel from 6-8 p.m. at the Synergy School, 1387 Valencia Street (at 25th Street) in San Francisco. Join the fight for equality and check out volunteer opportunities: help with mailings, run a youth group, have a house party, help around the office, join the teen panel. Bay Area teens with LGBT parents speak out from 7-8 p.m. People of all ages are welcome; call (415) 861-KIDS, e-mail jude@colage.org, or visit www.colage.org for more information. Those who can't make it but would like to volunteer should still contact COLAGE.

Around the corner on the same night, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Bay Area Lawyers

for Individual Freedom are sponsoring "Legalizing Lesbian and Gay Families," an attorney-led discussion about second-parent adoptions and upcoming legislation that affects LGBT families. The event is at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, at Valencia. Call (415) 392-6257 for more information.

Also on Tuesday, "Surviving Trauma in Relationships," a presentation and conversation on how to cope with the past as it affects present relationships, will be held at New Leaf Services, 1853 Market Street, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, or to attend, contact Andrea Neumann Dalia, Ph.D. at (415) 626-7000, ext. 495.

Wednesday, March 28, will help ease those parental jitters with "Making School a Safer Place for Children Starting Kindergarten," a presentation by people working to do just that, sponsored by Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network and Women's Educational Media. The film, *That's a Family*, a diversity teaching tool, will be shown, and the filmmaker will be in attendance. The event is from 6-8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary. Call (510) 339-6055 for more information.

On Thursday, March 29, BALIF will sponsor a brown bag lunch discussion on equal benefits, civil unions, and domestic partnerships from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, 685 Market Street, 6th floor. Join city Treasurer Susan

Leal, and Lambda Legal Defense Fund attorney Jenny Pizer, discussing the tremendous effect that San Francisco's ordinance has had, the difference between the city and state domestic partners' registry, and the prospects for change. Call (415) 882-2401 to RSVP or for more information.

On Thursday evening, an informal gathering celebrating adoption will be held from 7-9 p.m. at Adopt A Special Kid, 7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 125, in Oakland. LGBT families will share stories and talk about their experiences, and recent laws relevant for families will be discussed. A parent panel and short films are part of the program. You do not have to be interested in adoption to attend. Call (510) 553-1748 for more information.

Let's not forget that March 29 is also the famous domestic partnership ceremony in San Francisco. Mayor Willie Brown will preside over 75 couples tying the knot in the best way they know how at 5 p.m. at City Hall [see story, page 3].

Finally, next Thursday night also offers the continuance of the Jewish Community Center's LGBT discussion series, with "Realistic Expectations of Our Children," featuring Oren Slozberg, youth development programs specialist at Community Network for Youth Development. The conversation will focus on what to do when a child comes out, and will aim to educate and equip parents with the tools and resources necessary to provide support for their

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AB25 moves out of committee

by Dan Aiello

Dog-attack victim Diane Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, testified before the state Assembly Judiciary Committee last Tuesday, March 13, attempting to persuade its members to support AB25, a bill designed to increase the rights of domestic partners in California.

AB25's conservative opponents were no match for Smith's emotional testimony and without debate committee members approved the bill by a vote of 8-1.

Smith, who has filed a civil suit against the caretakers of the dogs that mauled and killed her partner, came to the Capitol to plead for laws that would support her right to sue for the pain and suffering inflicted upon her by the death of Whipple. Currently, California law does not recognize the right of a domestic partner to seek compensation for negligent death.

There was complete silence in the Jesse Unruh Assembly Hearing Room as Smith began her solemn testimony, recounting January 26 when her partner was fatally mauled by a neighbor's dogs while struggling to get into the couple's San Francisco apartment.

"When I learned there was no law to support my right to hold those accountable for Diane's death, I couldn't believe it," said Smith. "To say this added insult to injury is a gross understatement." Smith concluded by asking committee members "to honor who Diane was to me" by supporting the bill.

The bill's author, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-SF), testified before Smith and argued that the 11 rights embodied within AB25 pale in comparison to the "1,400 benefits" and responsibilities currently afforded married couples. "These are reasonable

and equitable benefits," Migden explained to committee members. "If my bill were enacted today, Ms. Smith would have the right to sue those responsible for her partner's death." Migden cited unnamed polls indicating that "50 to 60 percent" of Californians support employment, insurance, and equity benefits covered in AB25.

Sacramento attorney Tim Smith (no relation to Sharon Smith) joined a cadre of conservative and religious groups to voice opposition to AB25. Acknowledging Sharon Smith's testimony and Whipple's death as "a tragedy," Tim Smith berated AB25 as a blatant attempt to circumvent Proposition 22, an initiative passed by voters last year that states marriage in the state is limited to those between one man and one woman. "I am here in defense of family and marriage," said Tim Smith. "This bill essentially attempts to amend Article 2, Section 10 of Proposition 22," where the proposition states that the government will not provide marriage rights to domestic partners.

Tim Smith cited a case heard before the California Supreme Court to make the claim that AB25 is an illegal attempt to promote and protect gay marriage. Other conservative representatives made similar claims that AB25 circumvents the will of the California voters who supported Proposition 22. Opposing Migden's bill were representatives from Campaign for California Families, Capitol Resource Trust, and the Capitol Eagle Forum as well as individuals from religious groups. "We're not the radicals here," said an opponent. "No major religion or government has ever supported these sort of rights for homosexual couples. It's unconscionable to grant 11 marriage rights to unmarried couples," he said.

Perhaps the most intense mo-



From left, attorney Michael Cardoza, Sharon Smith, and Carole Migden at last week's Assembly Judiciary Committee hearing.

ment of the hearing came when a representative from Campaign for California Families pulled out a copy of the book *The Pink Swastika* and began to cite homosexuality for the atrocities of Nazi Germany. Committee Chair Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) interrupted the man and he left the hearing.

Lesbian Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), who sits on the Judiciary Committee, made an emotional statement about her own long-term relationship while appealing to her colleagues to support the bill. "It's the most important part of my life," she said. Kehoe also addressed an argument by AB25's opponents that Sharon Smith wasn't legally Whipple's domestic

partner. "It's a Catch-22 for gay and lesbian couples," explained Kehoe, who pointed out gays and lesbians are criticized for wanting the right to marry and then for not being more public.

Kehoe also addressed the claim that AB25 would be costly to businesses and taxpayers. "I was a city council member and in 1994 in San Diego we passed domestic partnership and there was virtually no added cost to taxpayers," she said.

Other committee members speaking out in support of the bill were Steinberg, Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), John Longville (D-San Bernardino), Kevin Shelley (D-San Francisco), and Howard Wayne (D-San Diego).

Shelley stated that he believes opposition to AB25 "is rooted in hatred." Wayne noted that "between 1,300 and 1,500 legal benefits and responsibilities are provided to married couples, this bill supplies just 11. This bill is not an end run around Proposition 22, it's not a marriage bill." Wayne joked that Migden's ability to draw a crowd was impressive, but her bill hardly deserved such attention.

State Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco) announced he will sign on as a sponsor of the bill.

Groups who voiced support for AB25 included the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Civil Liberties Union, the California Nurses Association, the city of West Hollywood, the city of Berkeley, the California Teachers Association, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the American Association of Retired Persons, and the Gray Panthers.

The lone vote against AB25 came from Assemblyman Robert Pacheco (R-Walnut), who cited income and estate tax exemptions as his reasons for not supporting the bill. Migden stated that "neither issue is covered" by her bill. Pacheco failed to note the irony of his argument that AB25 "separates out a group of people for certain rights. When we start doing that, we're making a mistake and I can't support that." Pacheco supported proposition 22, which separated out gay and lesbian relationships to deny them equal rights. ▽

Australian homosexuals in a winning mood

by S. Predrag

Alyson Annan, a member of the Australian women's hockey team, has gone public with her relationship with the Dutch women's hockey team captain, Carol Thate.

Annan, 27, who scored a gold medal at last year's Sydney Olympic Games and holds the International Player of the Year title, admitted that she is in her first gay relationship following the dissolution of her marriage.

"Few women athletes admit it publicly, although there are hundreds, thousands out there [in relationships with women]," Annan said in an interview to the *Sun-Herald*.

She expressed the hope that her coming out "may benefit people in the same situation who do not want to say anything or tell their friends and family."

Annan has already moved to Amsterdam to live with Thate while it remains to be seen if she is going to keep her place on the Australian hockey team — the Hockeyroos.

A group of Australian sportsmen and sportswomen took part in the gay Mardi Gras parade held in Sydney on March 3. Furthermore, there is a growing number

of people not only in the field of sports, but also in politics who are coming out in Australia.

Last month's elections in Western Australia saw a dramatic influx of openly lesbian and gay politicians to the local parliament.

Among those elected was former gay and lesbian rights lobbyist, Louise Pratt. She is only the second openly lesbian politician in the Western Australia Upper House.

Pratt, who won a seat as a member of the Labor Party, was one of 15 openly homosexual candidates who ran in the Western Australia state election. In fact, according to the local media, this state presently has at least twice as many openly gay and lesbian politicians as the rest of the country combined.

John Hyde, who won a seat in Perth, the capital of Western Australia, has become the first openly gay man to be elected to a Lower House position.

"I would like to see anti-discrimination and age of consent legislation completed this year," said Pratt. She noted that Western Australia currently has the worst age of consent laws for gay males [21 years of age] in the western world.

She said that, "We've already spoken to the attorney general

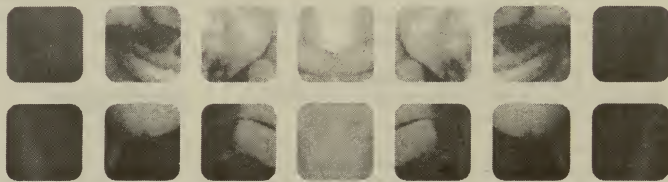
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All lab work, physical examinations and Peptide T will be provided free of charge to participants.

For information about these and other research studies,
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HIVCare is a Non-profit Program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital

Pipeline AIDS drugs

by Matt Sharp, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Breakthroughs in medicine are few and far between. If drug discoveries were more common there would be no need to do research because there would be no disease. But, over the continuum of time with a few breakthroughs, there has been relatively good progress in AIDS. Still, we are faced with uncertainty with the available drugs and their inherent flaws. And despite the progress with drug development, the ultimate cure remains as illusive as ever.

The recent Retrovirus and Opportunistic Infections conference in Chicago presented no big breakthroughs like the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver in 1996, where protease inhibitors hit the radar screen. However, despite the lack of earth-shattering news there are several drugs in the pipeline, and important new fields of discovery in order to develop better drugs. The research in AIDS is at a point where scientists are able to avail computer technologies and learn from past mistakes so that unique discoveries can now be made.

The 14 drugs used today to fight HIV are clearly inadequate at completely controlling HIV reproduction. Used in combination, HIV chemotherapy also has its toxic side effects and if drugs are not taken correctly they will become less effective over time. New candidates for HIV need to be developed that will be less toxic, easier to take, and obviously more effective.

At the conference in a closing lecture by Dr. Roy Gulick, from Cornell University, a very complete and comprehensive picture of where we stand with HIV therapy was presented. Gulick spoke of the challenges and needs of HIV research with respect to antiviral therapy. Adherence, toxicity, activity, and resistance are the challenges in current treatment of HIV. Each challenge presents a need for better therapies to be developed for people who have never been treated, those who need to maintain treatment, and those who need to construct salvage regimens. Existing drugs need to be improved, and newly developed drugs must be made better. Drugs need to be more convenient and easier to take with fewer side effects and improved activity against both wild type and resistant forms of HIV. Research needs to focus on viral reservoirs where HIV can hide out, and new targets for stopping HIV must be discovered.

It is encouraging that several older drugs are improving in convenience and dosing, thus lowering side effects without jeopardizing effectiveness or causing resistance. Starting with the nucleoside

analogs, AZT will be made as a time-released drug in a twice-daily dose. AZT has been combined with 3TC and now the two are combined with Abacavir, cutting down on the overall number of pills. ddI is now a once a day pill, enteric coated for better absorption. The drug d4T also will be available in a time-released 100 mg. pill to be taken once a day.

Protease inhibitors, perhaps the most burdensome to people with AIDS in terms of toxicity and the number of pills taken, have made some improvements. Saquinavir was made into a soft cell capsule (Fortavase) several years ago, making it more absorbable. Nelfinavir (Viracept) is now a twice a day dosing in 625 mg.

Ritonavir (Norvir) is now proven to enhance the levels of Saquinavir, Nelfinavir, and Amprenavir (Angenerase) and is made into a co-formulation with the newly released Lopinavir (Kaletra). New protease inhibitors such as Tipranavir, BMS-232, and mozenavir seem to be effective against PI resistant virus; a real issue with the current protease inhibitors.

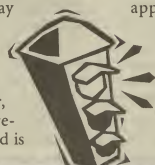
Probably the biggest issue with developing new non-nucleoside drugs is cross resistance with current available drugs. This means that people who take an older drug usually becomes resistant to other drugs in the same class. Since this is the biggest obstacle with non-nucleosides, all new drugs in development appear to not be cross resistant with the older drugs such as nevirapine and Sustiva.

One nucleoside guanine drug, DAPD, effective against AZT and 3TC resistant virus, is in early human testing. In an early study of patients who have used AZT and 3TC, 500 mg. of DAPD twice a day decreased virus two logs from baseline levels. Capravirine, an NNRTI has also been shown to be effective against NNRTI resistant virus, but development is on hold due to a severe toxic problem seen in dogs. TMC-120 has been shown to be effective against the common NNRTI mutation, K103. These drugs are exclusively made to work against NNRTI mutated virus. They are in early Phase I/II development and larger human studies need to be completed before we will know how effective they will be.

New targets to stop virus replication are producing new generations of HIV drugs. Tenofovir, a drug written about previously in this column, has recently opened in an expanded access program. The nucleotide drug is active against many nucleoside resistant viruses and may enable a "resensitization" to a crucial 184 muta-

tion. The drug, administered once a day, may turn out to be more potent than its cousin adefovir that was denied approval by the Food and Drug Administration, and may be an important addition to a new combination for salvage patients.

A veritable new field of research and development has opened up with the HIV entry inhibitor drugs. The compounds prevent entry, attachment or fusion of HIV to the host cell. People are most familiar with the fusion inhibitor T-20 because it is furthest along in development. There is also second-generation fusion inhibitor T-1249 that will not be cross resistant to T-20 and appears to be 2-100 times more active.



Survive AIDS

Other promising entry inhibitor candidates are attachment inhibitors and co-receptor inhibitors (possibly useful against the CXCR4 and CCR5 co-receptors) that are much earlier in development.

There is also talk about using these drugs in combination since they may have a synergistic effect. These strategies offer great hope but unfortunately most, but not all of them must be administered by a needle. As exciting as the new attachment inhibitor field is for new strategies especially for people who have tried all the existing drugs, caution must be used as the drugs are all in early stages of development.

Gulick listed several other classes of HIV drugs being researched. DC-sign inhibitors, regulatory protein inhibitors, uncoating inhibitors, assembly inhibitors, capsid protein polymerization inhibitors, RNAase H inhibitors, and even integrase and zinc finger inhibitors, drugs thought to be useless, are back in development. And there are adjunctive therapies that aid in the effectiveness of certain antivirals. The good news is that there are dozens of new drugs in development for HIV. Unfortunately new drug candidates have a high rate of failure for one reason or another, so the more possibilities, the more hope there is.

At the retrovirus conference it was encouraging to see so many drugs in the pipeline, despite the research lag during the last few years as protease inhibitors seemed to provide a false sense that the cure for AIDS had arrived. Drug research is a lengthy trial and error process that is very expensive and until more human studies are completed, we won't know how toxic or effective the pipeline drugs may turn out to be. But, as we learn more about HIV, the drugs, effects on the cell and the body, there will be new hope for better treatments for all people with HIV and AIDS. ▼

Australian

◀ previous page

about that and he has given a commitment to those reforms this year."

The attorney general, according to Pratt, has also agreed to establish a gay and lesbian community committee to do its own review of Western Australia's legislation.

A recent survey by the Australian Democrats showed that priority issues for gays and lesbians down under are those of "the removal of concrete barriers of discrimination" since that is what affects them most in their daily lives.

However, the survey proved that relationship recognition was the most important personal issue. Twelve percent of those surveyed said that workplace or school yard homophobia was their priority issue.

In several Australian states lesbians and single heterosexual women still do not have access to fertility services because of state laws.

Citizens and permanent residents of Australia are allowed to

have their partners live with them provided that "for the period of 12 months immediately preceding the date of application" they had a "mutual commitment to a shared life, the relationship was genuine and continuing and had been living together on a permanent basis."

However, at present, the battle rages on for the Superannuation Bill which seeks to amend the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act of 1993 and to remove discrimination against same-sex couples in respect of superannuation benefits. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Leonard D. "Len" Cranmer



Born November 26, 1947, passed away on January 23, 2001, from a heart attack in Bangkok, Thailand. Len's last few years included living with HIV.

Len was born in Colorado. He moved to San Francisco in the early 1970s. Len graduated from the University of San Francisco. He worked for various companies in San Francisco, including Bechtel Corporation and Bank of America.

For the last eight years, Len taught at Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand where he was a professor of Business, and English as a Second Language.

Len's travels took him to Hawaii,

Washington, Thailand, Japan, and the Philippines.

Len leaves a wonderful legacy of spirituality, a zest for life, and a love for people from all walks of life. He leaves behind family members in Colorado and Washington state; friends in California and Hawaii, and many loving students in Thailand. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

A memorial service and celebration of Len's life will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2001 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco, 1187 Franklin St. (at the corner of Geary and Franklin). For questions, please call (415) 626-3552 or email Cliff@Pletcher.com.

Harry M. Johnson, Jr.
February 15, 1948 — March 9, 2001

Harry M. Johnson, Jr. peacefully passed from this life on Friday, March 9, 2001, surrounded by his family, loved ones and dearest friends.

Loving son of Harry Sr. and Freida Johnson and

originally from Rhode Island, Harry relocated to San Francisco after serving in Vietnam. For nearly 20 years he was assistant vice president with the Bank of California and served the community faithfully involving himself in numerous service organizations. Harry was most instrumental in the initial development of Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group in 1985 to find out what could be done to assist those touched by HIV/AIDS. This led to the development in 1986 of MHR-AIDS Support Group that has been serving the community for the past 16 years. In addition to being one of the group's first volunteers, Harry served as a member of the Board of Directors and eventually became the

program's Assistant Director up until his death. Harry, you will be deeply missed! Memorial contributions to Most Holy Redeemer AIDS support Group are gratefully being accepted: 4321 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 863-1581.

David F. Kurich
1954 — 2001

On February 12, 2001, David entered into rest at the VA Medical Center in San Francisco. Born on February 23, 1954 in Los Angeles, he had resided for many years in the Bay Area. In the late

'80s and early '90s, David tended bar at two of Turk Street's more colorful establishments, Peter Pan and the Ram's Head. His many customers and friends will remember him as someone with a great sense of humor and a heart that would embrace all who entered his life. In later years, David was a valued volunteer for the ID Clinic at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

David is survived by his life partner, Steve Salestrom, his daughter Danniell, his son Dustin, and three beautiful grandchildren. We all miss him terribly.

A celebration of David's life will be held this Sunday afternoon, March 25 at 3 p.m. at Kimo's on Polk at Pine.

Eilert Peterson

Eilert Peterson died on March 5th of complications from AIDS. Born on September 21, 1956 in Gillette, Wyoming. He moved to San Francisco in 1984, working at Chevron before retiring. He developed a large and supportive group of friends, volunteered at Under One Roof, and was active in several groups. His mother, two sisters, two brothers,

several nieces and nephews survive him.

A Celebration of Eilert's life was held Sunday, March 11th at one of his many favorite places in San Francisco, Fort Point under the Golden Gate Bridge. We all will miss him.

Friends plan a permanent memorial at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. Contact Allen Constant at 720-8848.

Tiffany

Our dear Tenderloin sister, Tiffany, passed over to the other side on Thursday, March 8 in the afternoon. She partied the night before and when she lay down to take her nap, decided not to awaken. When found, she had her nat-



ural wonderful smile that she constantly carried and had her arms crossed over her body angelic style. The Coroner listed her departure as a natural cause.

Tiffany, 39, was a Texan transplant, a Texan transgender, who entered the world as Dwyne Gerome Evans but lived as Tiffany since a teenager. Her family came from Texas to San Francisco to pick up her body but brought her home, as well as giving her a service and burying her, as Dwyne.

Therefore a memorial service will be held for Tiffany on Tuesday, March 27 at 3:45 p.m. at the San Francisco Network Ministries Center at 366 Eddy St. (at Leavenworth, between The Hotel Cadillac and the Elm Hotel). The service will be conducted by Minister Glenda Hope.



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BMS allows off-patent d4T production

by Liz Highleyman

Last Wednesday, March 14, Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) announced that it would allow other companies to produce cheaper generic versions of its nucleoside analog drug d4T (stavudine, marketed as Zerit) for sale to South Africa.

The announcement came amid worldwide controversy over intellectual property laws limiting drug access in poor countries, which has been spotlighted by an ongoing lawsuit by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association against the South African government. BMS is one of 39 drug companies taking part in the suit, which went to trial on March 5 but was delayed until mid-April.

According to BMS Executive Vice President John McGoldrick, "This is not about profits and patents; it's about poverty and a devastating disease. We seek no profits on AIDS drugs in Africa, and we will not let our patents be an obstacle." It remains unclear whether BMS will offer licenses to other companies that wish to produce anti-HIV drugs, or instead will decline to enforce its patent.

BMS also announced in a press release that it would reduce the combined price of d4T and ddI (didanosine, or Videx) to about \$1 per day for all African countries participating in the ACCESS program, a joint initiative sponsored by the United Nations and five drug companies. The combined U.S. price for d4T and ddI is about \$10,000 annually. The recommended standard triple therapy for HIV requires that the two nucleoside analog drugs be used

with a protease inhibitor. So far, four countries (the Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda) have agreed to take part in the program; other countries remain concerned about keeping open their option to produce or import cheaper drugs. BMS also said it plans to donate \$15 million to help African countries promote "local solutions" to deal with AIDS.

The drug company made its announcement in the wake of protests against Yale University, which initially developed d4T. Yale holds the patent on the drug, but maintains a licensing contract with BMS. The humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders and Yale law students pressured the university to allow South Africa to import generic d4T. Yale indicated that it had "removed all barriers" that would prevent BMS from allowing the manufacture of generic versions of the drug. According to press releases issued last week, the university was "gratified that Yale's efforts paved the way for the significant action announced by Bristol-Myers," and that it would "continue to encourage all pharmaceutical companies to make their AIDS drugs affordable and widely available in Africa."

South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign called the BMS move "a major victory" for AIDS treatment activists. Kate Krauss of ACT UP/Philadelphia, which has spearheaded protests against patent restrictions on AIDS drugs, said that the BMS initiative is "groundbreaking," in that it is the "first time that a U.S. drug company has acknowledged that generic drugs are the key to saving

lives." TAC and ACT UP are both part of the Health GAP Coalition, which has been working for the past two years to increase access to drugs in poor countries.

Last Friday, the Health GAP Coalition sent a letter to BMS asking the company to issue "non-exclusive, voluntary, royalty-free licenses to any bona fide manufacturer or distributor – whether government, NGO, or private company – to use their intellectual property for HIV/AIDS drugs," and to extend such licenses to all non-OECD (less developed) countries and Mexico. According to the letter, the lives of people with AIDS in these countries "are no less important than those in Africa." Health GAP also asked BMS to open its books, establish a research fund, and "agree not to sue or pressure countries that are undertaking measures to make essential medicines available to their people."

Activists continue to demand that BMS withdraw from the South African lawsuit, a move the company has resisted because the suit is "aimed at protecting their rights to all prescription drugs, not just AIDS drugs." In San Francisco, as the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, a demonstration outside a BMS-sponsored gala reception at the National AIDS Update Conference on March 21 was scheduled to go forward.

Activists, including members of ACT UP/East Bay, Global Exchange, and Survive AIDS, planned to ask attendees to boycott the BMS reception and to "question their relationships to the pharmaceutical companies which are involved in the lawsuit against the government of South Africa." ▼

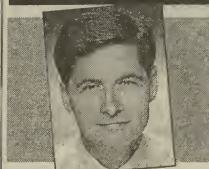
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March. Mad.

by Jim Provenzano

Sean "Puffy" Combs got off for allegedly bribing and lying about brandishing a gun in a nightclub. Not as if Sean "Puffy" Combs ever did anything like that before. Sure, he cracked a record executive over the head with a champagne bottle a few years ago, but he took a daylong "anger management course," so he's okay.

Not so for the nine young African American kids who were trampled to death at New York's City College in 1991 when a rap and basketball event, oversold by Sean "Puffy" Combs and other promoters, resulted in a mob scene.

One young girl had her eyeball squished out from the stampee. Talk about March Madness.

After his recent brush with the law, Sean "Puffy" Combs claimed that "God is on my side," thanking "God for protecting me" in his trial. I wonder where his god was when those nine kids were crushed to death at that basketball game he ineptly produced.

This is where I could babble on in some archly ironic way about the height of basketball season,

and make some cryptic comment about the racism in the sport, recent events and even perhaps make a remark about women's basketball, but of the estimated 60 percent of lesbians in that sport, 0 percent have come out, and this being a gay newspaper, I'll wait for at least one of them to come out.

Before my computer crashes from my neighborhood's rolling blackout, I have to send in my column.

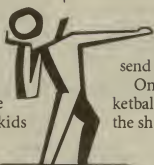
One comment about basketball finals and all, though: the shoes.

Whose shoes do you wear? Are you aware, amid the supposed mass consumerism of your supposed gay disposable income, that your trendy inflatable, glow-in-the-dark running shoes were probably made by slaves?

Do you even care? It's not gay oppression, so it doesn't affect you, does it? You're happily ensconced in your duplex with matching SUV, Labrador/boyfriend, right? Your dot-com hasn't bombed, so who cares if your trendy footwear was made by an Asian 12-year-old who makes \$1.50 a week? That little kid wouldn't have a job at all if it weren't for your benevolence.

Subject: just fwd it

Nike now lets you personalize your shoes by submitting a word or phrase which they will stitch onto your shoes, under the swoosh. So Jonah Peretti filled out the form and sent them \$50 to stitch



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Subject: RE: Your NIKE iD order
o16468000

Your NIKE iD order was cancelled for one or more of the following reasons: 1) Your Personal ID contains another party's trademark or other intellectual proper-

Are you aware ... that your trendy running shoes were probably made by slaves?

ty, 2) Your Personal ID contains the name of an athlete or team we do not have the legal right to use, 3) Your Personal ID was left blank. Did you not want any personalization? 4) Your Personal ID contains profanity or inappropriate slang, and besides, your mother would slap us.

If you wish to reorder your NIKE iD product with a new Personalization. Please visit us again at www.nike.com

Thank you, NIKE iD

Subject: RE: Your NIKE iD order
o16468000

Greetings,

My order was canceled but my personal NIKE iD does not violate any of the criteria outlined in your message. The Personal iD on my Custom ZOOM XC USA running shoes was the word "sweatshop." Sweatshop is not: another's party's trademark, the name of an athlete, blank, or profanity. I choose the iD because I wanted to remember the toil and labor of the children that

made my shoes. Could you please ship them to me immediately?

Thanks and Happy New Year,
Jonah Peretti

Dear NIKE iD Customer,

Your NIKE iD order was cancelled because the iD you have chosen contains, as stated in the previous e-mail correspondence,

"inappropriate slang." If you wish to reorder your NIKE iD product with a new personalization please visit us again at nike.com

Thank you, NIKE iD

Dear NIKE iD,

Thank you for your quick response to my inquiry about my custom ZOOM XC USA running shoes. Although I commend you for your prompt customer service, I disagree with the claim that my personal iD was inappropriate slang. After consulting Webster's Dictionary, I discovered that "sweatshop" is in fact part of standard English, and not slang. The word means: "a shop or factory in which workers are employed for long hours at low wages and under unhealthy conditions" and its origin dates from 1892. So my personal iD does meet the criteria detailed in your first e-mail.

Your Web site advertises that the NIKE iD program is "about freedom to choose and freedom to express who you are." I share

Nike's love of freedom and personal expression. The site also says that "If you want it done right ... build it yourself." I was thrilled to be able to build my own shoes, and my personal iD was offered as a small token of appreciation for the sweatshop workers poised to help me realize my vision. I hope that you will value my freedom of expression and reconsider your decision to reject my order.

Dear NIKE iD Customer,

Regarding the rules for personalization it also states on the NIKE iD Web site that "Nike reserves the right to cancel any personal iD up to 24 hours after it has been submitted." In addition, it further explains: "While we honor most personal iDs, we cannot honor every one. Some may be (or contain) other's trademarks, or the names of certain professional sports teams, athletes, or celebrities that Nike does not have the right to use. Others may contain material that we consider inappropriate or simply do not want to place on our products. Unfortunately, at times this obliges us to decline personal iDs that may otherwise seem unobjectionable. In any event, we will let you know if we decline your personal iD, and we will offer you the chance to submit another." With these rules in mind, we cannot accept your order as submitted. If you wish to reorder your NIKE iD product with a new personalization please visit us again.

Dear NIKE iD,

Thank you for the time and energy you have spent on my request. I have decided to order the shoes with a different iD, but I would like to make one small request. Could you please send me a color snapshot of the 10-year-old Vietnamese girl who makes my shoes? ▼

Jim Provenzano is the author of **PINS**, which was produced with absolutely no slave labor, other than his own.

<http://www.myrmidude.com>

Family Week

◀ page 14

kids and themselves.

On Friday, March 30, the Alternative Family Institute will host and sponsor a summary of current psychological research of lesbian and gay parents raising children. You've always told your evangelical neighbors that your kids are healthy, now you can be armed with the facts and figures to back up your case. The discussion will be held from 7-9 p.m. at 425 Divisadero Street, suite 203B. Call (415) 436-9000 for more information.

tion.

Sunday, April 1, will mark the end of Family Awareness Week with a "Thank You Tea" fundraiser to honor the Dutch decision to legalize same-sex marriage and present Our Family's Jon Logan with an award for his work on behalf of the community. The third annual donor reception will be at the beautiful Mt. Davidson home of Paula Ryan, 955 Rockdale. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served and special guests will attend. Admission is \$25 and up but no one will be turned away; call (415) 681-1960 for more information.

Following the tea will be a 5 p.m. rally at Harvey Milk Plaza, where the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will offer spontaneous marriage blessings. Advocates will be on hand with information on

how to make marriage a reality, and couples will be able to sign up for California's statewide domestic partnership registry.

It should be noted that throughout the week at various events, statewide domestic partnership forms will be made available to couples for on-the-spot registration, courtesy of Assemblywoman Carole Migden, the author of the historic legislation. Couples need a \$10 check and a photo identification. Call Kirsten Boyd in Migden's office at (415) 557-3000 for more information. Increasing registration at the state level will increase support for AB25, Migden's upcoming legislation that seeks to expand LGBT partner rights, so even if you're not the marrying kind, you can make a political statement. ▼

Boxing day

Don't forget, this weekend is Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi's latest local match this Sunday in Hayward.

Big Palooka Promotions presents Brawl at the Hall II, five bouts of professional boxing, featuring "Irish" Pat Lawlor vs. Abez Bey, Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi vs. Kelly Whaley, Martha Salazar vs. Denise Callahan, Danny Chavez vs. Gilbert "Hurricane" Jackson, and a fifth fight to be announced. Sunday, March 25 at 5 p.m. (doors open at 3:30 p.m.), at Centennial Hall in Hayward, CA. Tickets are \$40 open seating. Credit cards accepted. Call (510) 481-9300. Info: <http://www.bigpalooka.com>. ▼

— Jim Provenzano

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR AND AVAILABILITY OF PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA) PROGRAMS IN SAN FRANCISCO, SAN MATEO AND MARIN COUNTIES

Hearing Date: Monday, March 26, 2001 at 5:30 p.m.
San Francisco City Hall, Board of Supervisors' Committee Room
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 263
San Francisco, California

The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, as Lead Administrator of the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area (EMSA), invites residents of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties to attend a public hearing on the 2001 preliminary recommendations for the HOPWA programs. This will be held as a part of a larger hearing hosted by the Citizens' Committee on Community Development (CCCD) for San Francisco's CDBG, ESG and HOME programs. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on these preliminary recommendations.

Copies of the 2001 Preliminary Recommendations are available at the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Community Development, 25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 700. Residents of San Mateo and Marin counties may call 415-749-2536 regarding availability of the recommendations in those counties. Persons unable to attend the hearing may submit written statements by April 6 to: San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, HOPWA program, 770 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3125. If you have any questions regarding the public hearing, please call 415-252-3100.

- For accessible/wheelchair MUNI information, please call 415-923-6142.
- Accessible street parking is available at Grove Street and Van Ness Avenue and at McAllister Street and Van Ness Avenue.
- Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) is available.
- A sound enhancement system is used at the hearing.
- An American Sign Language interpreter or a reader is available by advanced request. Please contact Eugene Flannery at 415-252-3135, 415-252-3107 (TDD) by Friday, March 23. Late requests will be honored if possible.
- In order to assist the City and County of San Francisco's efforts to accommodate chemically sensitive individuals, please refrain from the use of chemically-based products.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246924

The following person(s) are doing business as: Destiny Transportation, 1035 Bush Street #14 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rick R. Zonne. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 22, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/22/01. **MAR 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246917

The following person(s) are doing business as: Y & S Flooring Company, 151 Lee Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Zhi Yong Zheng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 22, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/22/01. **MAR 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247011

The following person(s) are doing business as: Variety Modern Video Film, 168 Design Group, One Six Eight Design Group, One Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard Costello. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, January 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01. **MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247007

The following person(s) are doing business as: Donut World, 5401 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kimsan Cheng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01. **MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247080

The following person(s) are doing business as: W.M.S. Express, Western Attorney Services, Transbay Express, Western Messenger Service Inc. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Raymond R. Crosetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 20, 1979. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/01. **MAR 8, 15, 22, 29, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247204

The following person(s) are doing business as: California First Mortgage Co. 445 Baker Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Howard Louis Gaddy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01. **MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247197

The following person(s) are doing business as: Time For Flowers & Gifts, 50 Persia Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cherrie Maxwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 1, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01. **MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 246999

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rockworks Productions, Inc. Rockworks Management, Rockworks Publishing, Rockworks Records, 1175 Ellis Street, Apt. #C309, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terry J. Smith, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 26, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/01. **MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247207

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mylene's Hair Salon, 4008 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mylene Carol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 2, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/01. **MAR 15, 22, 29, APR 5, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319408

In the Matter of the Application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, For change of Name. The application of Matthew Lawrence Ross, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Matthew Lawrence Ross has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Matthew Shelton Ross. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319057

In the Matter of the Application of Teri Gyl Spivey, For change of Name. The application of Teri Gyl Spivey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Teri Gyl Spivey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Grace Spivey-Gyl Templeton. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0221434

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rockworks Productions, Terrytoons Music Publishing, 5700 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 18, 1998. This business was conducted by: an individual: Terry James Smith **MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001**

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247422

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sister Spl. 235 Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cynthia Anderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 14, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/01. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247352

The following person(s) are doing business as: Last Resort Fund, 187 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Paul Causey, Exec. Director. The Tenderlon AIDS Research Center (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/12/01. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247430

The following person(s) are doing business as: Storyline Productions, Geller/Goldfine Productions, 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Daniel B. Geller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/14/01. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247334

The following person(s) are doing business as: Embassadors Vendors, 201 Harrison Street #628, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Nicholas E. Mabs and E. Louise Mabs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 01, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/09/01. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247505

The following person(s) are doing business as: American Taxicab, 1595 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Philip Achilles, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 08, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/16/01. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 247378

The following person(s) are doing business as: J.H. Tiffany and Associates, Inc. 1667 Turk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed James H. Tiffany. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, March 05, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/13/01. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is: Kirkpatrick Kil Sun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1196 Geary Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. Type of license Applied for: 48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319074

In the Matter of the Application of Walter Allen Anderson, For change of Name. The application of Walter Allen Anderson, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Walter Allen Anderson, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wly Anderson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of April, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0227529

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: American Taxi Cab, 1595 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 12/16/1998. This business was conducted by: an Individual: Philip Achilles **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319637

In the Matter of the Application of Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, For change of Name. The application of Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leslie Giles O'Bergin aka Molly Morgaine Nidana, has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Molly Kathryn McGinn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of May, 2001 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAR. 15, 22, 29, APR. 5, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0232046-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Storyline Productions. Located at: 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/01/1999. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Daniel B. Geller. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0232047-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Geller/Goldfine Productions, 930 Pierce Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/01/1999. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership: Dayna L. Goldfine. **MAR. 22, 29, APR. 5, 12, 2001**

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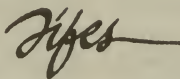
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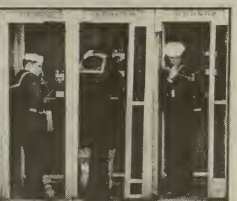
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 12 • 22 March 2001

Academy Award ennui

'Oscar Fever' is
dull and error-filled

by Tavo Amador

If you're going to write a serious book about the Academy Awards, then fill it with lively prose, juicy anecdotes, and get your facts correct. Alas, Emmanuel Levy's *Oscar Fever* (Continuum, \$29.95) fails on all three counts. Rarely has so much research about so fascinating a subject produced so much tedium.



In his introduction, Levy warns that his book will be different from Mason Wiley's and Damien Bona's chronologically organized *Inside Oscar: The Unofficial History of the Academy Awards*, because it is structured thematically. This promises fresh insights from a complementary work. *Inside Oscar*, however, is also entertaining, accurate, and informative. Unfortunately, *Fever* differs from it in all those areas.

It only takes a few minutes to discover that *Fever* promises far more than it delivers. Chapters on the creation of the award, types of movies honored, studio politics, categories of roles that produce winners, the nominations and their impact on careers, all tempt the reader to dive right in. This is, however, a time to look before leaping: this swimming pool has been drained.

For example, Levy offers a "statistical analysis" of the types of Oscar-winning films, such as "Biopictures," "Historical Epics," and "Comedies and Musicals." His definition of the first of these, which he maintains are the most frequent winners of the Best Picture Oscar, however, is so broad as to be meaningless. "Biopictures" are "inspired by actual events and/or real-life personalities." Thus, it includes *Schindler's List* (1993), *Raging Bull* (1980), *The Robe* (1953), and *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942), among countless others.

On the other hand, excluded from this category is *Gone With the Wind* (1939), which is defined as a "Historical Epic," which also covers *Forrest Gump* (1994), *Cleopatra* (1963), *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) and *Hamlet* (1948). Since *Gone With the Wind* meets the definition of "Biopicture" as much as *The Robe* does, Levy's clas-

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73rd annual Oscar rites: A giant step backwards

by Matthew Kennedy

Could you get it up for *Gladiator*? Was *Chocolat* all empty calories? Were you stuck in *Traffic* 30 minutes too long? Did you find *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* to be an exotic, dressed-up Saturday-morning *Indiana Jones* rip-off? Welcome to the 73rd annual Oscar rites, where mediocrity rules. If you believe, as I do, that 2000 was a wretched year at the movies, then you may approach the back-patting ballyhoo on March 25 with a curious combination of scorn and indifference. True fans will weather the off-years, so here we go with dour projections and half-hearted hopes for the winners and also-rans in the high-profile sweepstakes.

Best Supporting Actor: Three former nominees who've never won are vying with two new kids. Jeff Bridges didn't quite convince as an American President with big appetites, though he put in a game effort, in *The Contender*. Willem Dafoe, never one of film-dom's great beauties, is even more grotesque than usual playing *Nosferatu* actor Max Schreck in *Shadow of the Vampire*, a really bad movie. Albert Finney was the perfect crusty old lawyer in *Erin Brockovich*, miraculously stealing focus from Julia Roberts' enhanced rack. Benicio Del Toro



Willem Dafoe in
Shadow of the Vampire

won heaping praise for his Mexican narcotics officer in *Traffic*. Joaquin ("Am I not merciful?") Phoenix was appropriately evil-eyed as a guy who really doesn't take rejection at all well in *Gladiator*. Del Toro and Phoenix are new to Oscar, and the former has the kind of strong role, haunted face and pre-Oscar awards that spell winner. But I'm wondering about Finney, who has those credentials Hollywood loves (respected veteran/four-time Oscar loser going for five). Has his time come? His scenes with Roberts crackle with the unmistakable sound of good writing, good directing and good acting.

Best Supporting Actress: Judi Dench is enjoying the fruits of

her recent Best Supporting Actress win (*Shakespeare in Love*) with plenty of employment these days. But her performance as *Chocolat*'s crabby old broad who sips chocolate, bonds with her grandson and dies on cue has a perfunctory odor befitting a bored Dame. Marcia Gay Harden was fierce and altogether terrific as painter Lee Krasner in *Pollock*. Frances McDormand, an actress who always makes me smile, delivers every line to perfection as an uptight mother in the delightful *Almost Famous*. Kate Hudson has also been tapped for *Almost Famous* as kooky rock groupie Penny Lane. Last up is Julie Walters as a dance teacher who abandoned her dreams long ago in *Billy Elliot*. Hudson has the benefit of hot-new-thing p.r. going for her. It doesn't hurt that her mom is Goldie Hawn, the rich man's Teri Garr. Short odds are on Hudson.



Marcia Gay
Harden in *Pollock*

Upset in the cards?

Best Actor: Tough race to call. Spain's Javier Bardem received his country's first-ever acting nomination for *Before Night Falls*, a sensual but shapeless mess of a movie about persecuted gay Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas. Bardem gives the year's best Susan Hayward performance, complete with booze, drugs, lowlife boyfriends, misunderstood talents, wrongful imprisonment, and finally, disease and death. Tom Hanks is up for *Cast Away*, the first feature-length commercial for Federal Express pretending to be a movie. Russell Crowe's nomination as the fearless *Gladiator* is a no-brainer. Was there anything fresh or spontaneous in that performance, or that



Javier Bardem in
Before Night Falls



Russell Crowe in
Gladiator

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Do Shut Up

In our cub reporter days, we wrote a feature-length report in these pages on the burgeoning bear phenomenon and the international bear gathering in San Francisco. We have not returned much to the subject since, though we do know plenty of guys who might qualify as genuine, boner-fide bears, and we well know their hibernation habits.

But even we were surprised and delighted to find out that Oscar nominee **Joaquin Phoenix** calls himself a big bear booster, too! When big-time, social-climbing gossip columnist **Liz Smith**

started moistening last week at the prospect of Joaquin's possibly nabbing that Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his turn as a mad emperor in *Gladiator*, Phoenix rightly told her to shut up, girl!

"Oh, but forget the Oscar nomination," he said. "The real pinnacle is that I'm playing an animated character in a Disney film. Isn't that the greatest? I play a Native American transformed into a bear. It's called *The Bears*. Don't call me a leading man, I don't care about that. I'm a leading bear. I am content!"



Out There

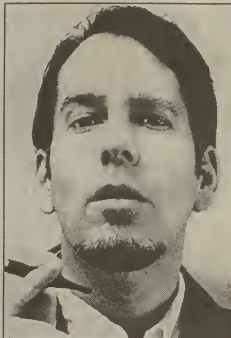
We loved Joaquin as the horny abbé in *Quills*, though sitting through the rest of that movie was an act of pure masochism.

Javier Javier

One more thing about the Oscars, and then we'll totally shut up about them. It's just that if humpy Spanish actor **Javier Bardem** doesn't win for *Before Night Falls*, we'll go jump right into the Bay. Bardem made his first big splash in Spain

in **Bigas Luna's** 1992 film *Jamón Jamón*; he played a paraplegic policeman in **Pedro Almodóvar's** 1997 offering *Live Flesh*. But his

around endlessly for any possible Oscar windfall — you know the ones we mean, they're stacked up in screening rooms like the Opera Plaza — that's worth a fresh look.



Queer rock artist Charly Brown

Picture this

Also worth a gander: a showing of 100 new prints by founder of SF queer art-rock band **Voice Farm** **Charly Brown** called *Why I Love the Internet*. Apparently Brown has appropriated private images from the Internet and "re-packaged" them in this exhibition. We've seen some of the images, and it's the kind of **hard material** for which we, too, love the new technology!

The installation is up for one night only, Saturday, March 31, 5:30-9 p.m. at The New Black Gallery, 2120 Bryant St. For more info, go to www.thenewblack.org.

Ch-ch-ch-changes

RIP: **Glenn Hughes**, the mustachioed, leather-clad biker in the disco band the Village People, died at 50 in New York last week. The cause was lung cancer.

Congratulations go to French Socialist **Bertrand Delanoë**, an openly gay politician, for winning last week's election for mayor of that city of lights, Paris.

Café society

The sun has poured through a mail-slot in the morning fog and is brightening the pavement where darlings sit at the **Café Flore**. The tables are mostly empty. A woman is reading a letter aloud to her friend; she says, "I need the sound of something to say!" At 10 o'clock, the cafe-sitters

are subdued. They pose, bent over their lattes as if there were words inscribed in the foam. A busboy strolls among the tables listlessly, picking up a spoon here, a coffee cup there.

A short, manic creature arrives on the scene. He strides through the front gate and scampers around the chairs in his path, looking like a pale, blond monkey. He proceeds at once to the counter, where he stacks his quarters like gold-pieces and orders a double espresso. The barrista behind the gleaming cappuccino machine doesn't give 19th-century poet **A.C. Swinburne** a second look. Neither his flurry of bright red locks, which dangle halfway down his back, nor his deep purple velvet blouse is as showy as the hairdos and costumes of the regular clientele.

"How you doing this morning?"

"Day smiteth day in twain, night sundereth night," says Swinburne. "And on mine eyes the dark sits as the light; Yea, Lord, thou knowest I know not, having sinned, If heaven be clean or unclear in thy sight."

"I know just how you feel," empathizes the counterman, "but this double'll do you right." He pushes the espresso towards Swinburne. "Anything with it?"

"There is a feverish famine in my veins," admits Swinburne. "Then you deserve a danish today. Sugar and cream by the cash register."

Swinburne takes his coffee and roll outside and makes a bee-line to the sunniest spot. There, in the lick of the most beneficent rays, Swinburne laps up his coffee and experiences the agony of the café seat. The caffeine rushes his thoughts around. Painted faces pass by, snapping up his regard. He cannot concentrate enough to read; his attention is a nervous fish, darting away from his pastel-paged notebook to his chapbook, then back again. He can write but a few words before his fountain pen floats up from paper, a bubble of arrested ink distended from the tip. His eye is drawn to the resplendent idlers. They pose with eyes braced by sunglasses, with all manner of metal and phosphorescent plastic dangling from their earlobes. Swinburne sits transfixed, in awe of the demanding page.

[To be continued.] ▼

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Javier Bardem in Madrid

live flesh in the role of Cuban writer **Reinaldo Arenas** was the best performance by a male of the species we saw on screen last year, bar none — and we're not just saying that because it's the only Oscar-nod performance this year with a **gangle** (gay angle). We're saying it because he fully invested the role.

"I didn't get the point when I was reading Reinaldo's work or trying to understand the role, why a person needs to write," Bardem told the *New York Times*. "I started writing poems and letters every day, telling him my experience, asking him for help. When I'm writing in the movie, I'm writing to him."

We saw *Night Falls* twice, and in our book it's the only one of those films that have lingered

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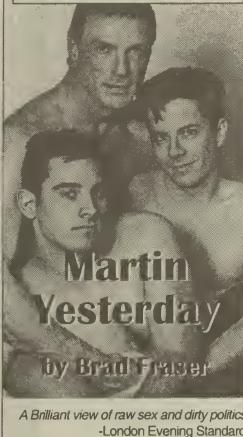
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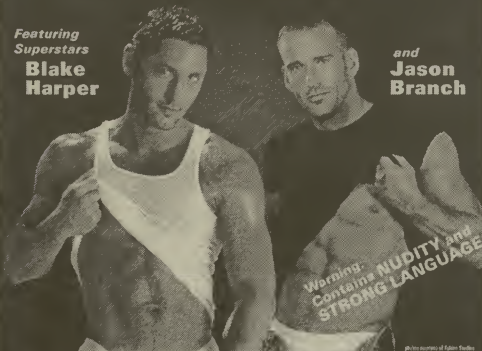
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A 'Bee' in his bonnet

Prince Gomolvilas' new play at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Prince Gomolvilas likes to take real-life events and, he says, "exaggerate them to a horrible extreme."

In *Big Hunks o' Burnin' Love*, his debut play, the young Thai-American playwright created a young Thai-American character with a family curse that will cause him to spontaneously combust if he isn't married by his 30th birthday.

And in *Bee*, his newest play, the hopefully flame-retardant Gomolvilas writes about a gay Asian-American who has become invisible to most of the world, a condition spurred by his mother's rejection of his homosexuality and his subsequent self-imposed isolation.

Yes, he said, it is a notion that started with his relationship with his own mother, before being exaggerated to a horrible extreme. Gomolvilas is hardly in a self-imposed isolation. *Bee*, opening this week at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, is his second new play to debut this season, following *Debunking Love* at New Conservatory Theatre Center. He's also working on a new play for New Conservatory for next season, and his one-act play *Donut Holes in Orbit* will be staged at the Smithsonian in May as part of Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

The San Francisco playwright has been feeling good enough about his writing career that his quit his job as associate editor of *Callboard* magazine in January. A boost to his financial confidence came with a \$25,000 grant from the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, half of which went to Gomolvilas as his commission fee and half to the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre for its production of *Bee*.

"I mentioned the idea of the play to Stanley Williams and Quentin Easter at the theatre several years ago, and they were very interested," Gomolvilas said. "It kind of surprised me at first, and it's still surprising me to this day."

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, as its name indicates, is a theater dedicated to exploring the African-American experience through the works of black artists. But while only one of the four performers is black, and neither the playwright nor director Arturo Catricala is, the play's premise of interracial dialogue appealed to the directors at the Hansberry.

"The premise was born on a BART ride," Gomolvilas said. "I read a lot of these New-Agey, self-help, spiritual books, and a common thread is this idea that we're all connected. I was sitting on a BART train across from a middle-aged black woman, and I was thinking about how this idea could relate to me and her, how two people of such different backgrounds could be connected."

In *Bee*, Robert Wu plays Devon, a young gay Korean-American whose personal demons have rendered him invisible. The only person who can see him is Gina, an older African-American woman (played by Jaxy Boyd). Together, Devon and Gina set out to find a cure for his invis-



Bee playwright Prince Gomolvilas

ibility that becomes a journey through contemporary views of race, class, gender, and friendship.

"With each new play I write," Gomolvilas said, "I always want to challenge myself in terms of content or form. With *Bee*, I think I've achieved both those things. I'm dealing with issues I haven't really dealt with before, and I also play a lot with style and form. The play consists mostly of traditional scenes, but also of monologues, weird Brechtian-type things, dream sequences, and documentary-style interviews."

Gomolvilas' next project is a commission from New Conservatory Theatre Center to adapt *Mysterious Skin*, Scott Heim's novel about sexual abuse among a Little League team, for the stage. "It's about white people in Kansas," Gomolvilas said, "so that will be another challenge for me."

For more information on *Bee*, call 474-8800.

Porn again

It's a play based on a movie in-

spired by a play. And since they all have "porn" in the title, can Ronnie Larsen be far off?

Larsen's *Shooting Porn*, a live-on-stage version of his 1997 film documentary of the same name, will begin a two-week run at the Victoria Theater on April 11. *Porn* stars (and real-life lovers) Blake Harper and Jason Branch head the cast of this inside look at the world of gay porn.

Other Larsen stage creations that have played San Francisco include *Making Porn*, *Ten Naked Men*, and *All-Male Peep Show*. During the Los Angeles run of *Making Porn*, Larsen found himself a frequent visitor to porn sets, and he set out to document that world on film. In the stage adaptation, Larsen himself plays exalted porn director Chi Chi LaRue, and Gino Colbert, another porn notable, plays himself.

The play comes with probably one of the most unnecessary advisories in theatrical history: "Warning—Contains nudity and strong language." And for a \$5 surcharge on the \$25 and \$30 tickets, you can sit in the seats closest to that which is being warned about. Call (510) 601-8932.

Favorite things

We recently heard of an unsanctioned sing-along *Mary Poppins* that has popped up in Southern California. Can a sing-along *Darling Lili* be far behind? In the meantime, we have *Sing-a-Long Sound of Music* returning to the Castro Theatre for a single day in April and then for a week in early summer.

What began as an underground sensation has become an officially sanctioned success that includes a pre-movie show highlighted by a costume contest. The movie itself, with subtitles for all the song lyrics, becomes a participatory event that combines both derision and celebration.

The return dates are April 26 and June 29-July 7. Advance tickets are available at (510) 601-TWEB.

Song birds

Betty Buckley didn't sing "Cry Me a River" at her recent Geary Theater concerts, but she didn't need to. Almost every song in her two-hour repertoire brought tears to her eyes, which was a little unsettling at first but soon became just another part of the experience.

But what an experience! Weaving her way through an incredibly eclectic song list, and accompanied only by pianist Kenny Werner, Buckley nailed the emotional heart of everything she took on. Her voice possesses an eccentricity that somehow enhances the words and the music of her canny

choices.

Kudos to American Conservatory Theater for launching this musical series that has so far provided an inviting venue to encounter Buckley and Barbara Cook, and in April, Wesla Whitfield. Here's a few more names on one fan's wish list: Bernadette Peters, Polly Bergen, and Eartha Kitt.



Jane Olivor

Jane Olivor would be on that list, but she's already headed to Herbst Theatre on April 7. Those who saw her at the Herbst in December, singing a stunning *capella* version of "Little Drummer Boy" for *Help Is on the Way*, know that despite her on-again, off-again career, Olivor still has the right stuff. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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American 'Beauty'

Fairies, suitors and princesses at SF Ballet

by Stephanie von Buchau

San Francisco Ballet's revival of *The Sleeping Beauty* turns out to be a beauty after all. Helgi Tomasson staged the production, with gorgeous designs by the late Jens-Jacob Worsaae, in 1990, and has tinkered with it minimally since. This year he dove in and fixed a couple of things, resulting in a tighter, less grueling evening in the theater.

Previously, SFB had the late Denis de Coteau in the pit, and one wanted to hear as much of Tchaikovsky's three-hour score as possible. Now, let's face it, the SFB orchestra, after two years without its stern but talented taskmaster, does not play as well — intonation problems and bobbles such as one never heard under de Coteau are now legion. So when Tomasson removed two character dances — Harlequin and Beauty and the Beast — from the final act, one could only applaud his common sense.

He has also restaged the awakening scene so that Princess Aurora now rides downstage in a wheeled gazebo and we can see

the Prince kiss her awake. Tomasson still has to fix the battle between good and evil before the kiss. Since the Lilac Fairy stage-manages Prince Desire's rescue of Aurora from her sleeping spell, having Lilac conquer the evil Carabosse has a certain symmetry, but it also makes the cowering Prince look like a wuss as he lets a woman fight his battle for him.

This made a particularly interesting contrast at the two performances I saw last Saturday. Julie Diana, who dances Aurora this week, made her debut as the Lilac Fairy on Saturday afternoon, a role usually danced by the magisterial Muriel Maffre. Diana couldn't be magisterial if her life depended on it, so she did what comes naturally to her: She radiated "Diananess."

Confronted with the angry Carabosse (Maffre, also making a role debut), Diana simply stiffened her spine and smiled, and smiled and smiled. Carabosse must have been furious because, in Maffre's words, she isn't evil so much as she is impatient. "She just can't understand why these people waste so much time being pretty and good." Since *Sleeping Beauty*

is about the power of goodness and beauty, however much we cynics may sneer, there is logic in Diana's simple eloquence.

Maffre, whose Lilac suddenly seemed less appealing at the evening performance, following Diana's afternoon triumph, scored a major success herself with Carabosse. Not only was she funny and mean, but her long fingers and undulating arms transformed every mime gesture into pure dance. You could read those gestures like a book. Anita Paciotti is solid in the part, and Jim Sohm is a master camper, but Maffre's Carabosse is sublime. She herself may find the Lilac a tad uninteresting after tasting the pleasures of evil. Now is the time for Tomasson to find a choreographer to make a great dramatic role for Maffre — Medea, Lady Macbeth, Boadecia. (Only half-kidding, possums.)

Are you experienced?

The rest of the matinee, except for the domineering lead couple, Lorena Feijoo and Roman Rykine, was a low-energy affair. Conductor Richard Bernas clanked, banged and pulled the tempos around. Feijoo, though she maintained admirable sangfroid in the circumstances, shot the conductor a couple of "What was that?" looks. Her problem with Aurora is not dancing or technique. She was steady in the balances, and the bravura stuff holds no terrors for her. But she's a woman; hear her growl! That muscular back, those shoulders, the tapered waist and come-hither profile make her look too experienced to successfully embody the dewy virgin of the "Rose Adagio." I kept thinking of the late Madeline Kahn reviewing the Roman troops in Mel Brooks' *History of the World*: "Yes, yes, no, yes, yes!"

In the next round of *Beautys*, when she'll be in her mid-20s, Yuan Yuan Tan, making her role debut Saturday night, should have nailed Aurora. She already has



Lucia Lacarra and Cyril Pierre in SF Ballet's *The Sleeping Beauty*

considerable command of the balances, the musical phrasing and the character's tenderness. I love the way Tan embraces her mother and father and the way she looks, with such sweet promise, at her partner, Vadim Solomakhia. I do not understand those who find Tan "cold" or "inscrutable." The last borders on racism, given her Chinese nationality. There is nothing inscrutable about her. She's still very young and inexperienced, but that is perfect for the innocent Aurora, who experiences her first moment of pain when she pricks her finger on Carabosse's spindle. Better to exhibit a modest, unaffected demeanor than to flash perky, insincere smiles.

Solomakhia is another dancer whose softly-molded technique seems to elude the thrill-seekers. Rykine's Prince was all strenuous bravado at the matinee; give the guy credit. He can jump, and he's become a strong partner. Yet Solomakhia's silky finish and gentle musicality are much more princelike to my eyes. Plus, his elevation, beats and air turns are first-rate for a perfectly proportioned danseur noble. If you don't make it

look hard, I guess today's audiences don't get it. One thing, though, Solomakhia and the rest of the principal boys need gimlet-eyed former ballet mistress Bonita Borne to make a visit from her Southwest home. They are all overstuffing their jocks again.


If the Fairies, the Bluebirds and the pas de six at the matinee were tepid, the Saturday evening dancers earned their money. Julia Adam, Katita Waldo and Kristin Long are luxury casting as the Fairies in the prologue, while Damian Smith, Michael Eaton, Jason Davis and Peter Brandenhoff were seriously sexual as the princely suitors. In the wedding sequence, Gennadi Nedvigine's Bluebird fluttered, leaped and beat like a trapped bird battering himself against a window pane, while Tina LeBlanc (she also dances Aurora) helped him make their pas de deux one of the magical moments of the long, beauty-saturated day. ▼

San Francisco Ballet's *The Sleeping Beauty* runs through March 25. Tickets (\$10-100): call (415) 865-2000.

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THEATRE

Ancient drama, brand new arena

'Agamemnon' opens Berkeley Rep's theatre

by Richard Dodds

Berkeley Rep has given the Bay Area the glorious gift of a major new theatrical venue, so it might seem churlish to complain about the first production occupying that space. Actually, it is a tentative complaint, for *The Oresteia* comes in three parts, only the first of which is being reviewed here.

But *Agamemnon*, which launches Aeschylus' trilogy, is a slow starter, filled with exposition detailing offstage action that is only fitfully brought alive on the expansive stage of the new Roda Theatre. But the auditorium itself, a hard-edged modernist take on traditional proscenium theaters, proves a surprisingly intimate companion to such a large stage box.

The acoustics also seem fine, though that doesn't mean every word of Robert Fagles' translation is easy to grasp. Aeschylus' thick prose can take some of the blame, but so, too, can the actors under Tony Taccone and Stephen Wadsworth's deliberately somber and unadorned production.

The Libation Bearers and *The Eumenides* (performed together as the second part of a rotating repertory) contain more of the kind of character interplay that contemporary audiences are familiar with. But unless performed with the utmost clarity and bracing interpretive skills, *Agamemnon* may be better off read than seen.

Certainly, a good deal of Aeschylus' surprisingly blunt yet eloquent condemnation of war is lost in the Berkeley production, starting with Michael Wiles' inef-

factual opening monologue as the watchman bemoaning the state of the country since going to war with Troy 10 years before.

The chorus led by Frank Corrado moves about stiffly, while unevenly conveying its messages. The first burst of life comes with the arrival of L. Peter Callender's herald, who with crisp efficiency brings to life his horrific descriptions of the seemingly endless war to recapture Helen from the Trojans.

Robynn Rodriguez, as Queen Clytemnestra, starts out more suburban than regal, but as her grisly agenda is revealed, grips the role with a ferocity that brings the final scenes alive. As her husband, the triumphantly returning warrior-king Agamemnon, Derrick Lee Weeden provides only one-dimensional, pompous grandeur. But as the slave Cassandra, Francesca Faridany chillingly conveys a mind unraveled and a spirit broken by subjugation.

What directors Taccone and Wadsworth are up to in *Agamemnon* may become clearer once the second half of the project is revealed. Unfortunately, there will probably be more than a few who won't be back to see it. ▼



Barbara Oliver and Robynn Rodriguez in Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*

Messy love

Karen Finley at Artaud

by Richard Dodds

As Karen Finley slathered her naked self with honey in the final moments of *Shut Up and Love Me* at Theatre Artaud, I couldn't help but think of Varla Jean Merman.

While Varla Jean's stage act has become a sophisticated burlesque, she still insists on swallowing a can of aerosol cheese while trilling in a sweet falsetto. Audiences expect this old trick, says Jeff Robertson, the man behind Varla Jean.

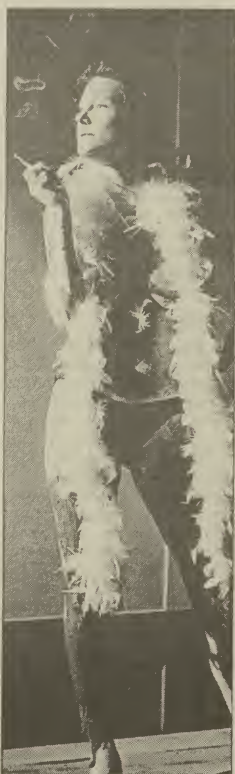
Maybe Finley thinks audiences will be disappointed if she doesn't give them a variation on what she became notorious for in 1990, when her chocolate-coated body came to symbolize the evils of government funding of the arts. "It's honey time," Finley shouts about an hour into the 75-minute show, abruptly pausing the meandering but edgy spoken part of program.

The preceding monologue, broken up by Finley's seemingly spontaneous asides to the audience and to herself, focuses on a woman who is looking for love in very wrong places. A destructive affair with a married man leads her to realize that her relationships are really cries for her father's love. She decides to cut out the middle man, and, arriving at her father's office, announces, "Dad, let's fuck." The laughs are often uneasy.

Referring frequently to the loose pages of a script, Finley employs exaggerated variations on the high-tone accents of 1930s movie stars. If a particular phrase pleases her, she repeats it over and over until she is sated. Distractions from the audience are commented upon, as are reactions (or lack thereof) that she considers inappropriate.

This unpredictability undercuts the comfort that a structured drama provides an audience. "It's still performance art," Finley says when something goes awry, "which means no guaranteed results."

While "honey time" at first seems a gratuitous gimmick, it does provide a catharsis for an au-



Performance artist Karen Finley

dience that has never been quite sure where it's being led. And maybe it's a release for Finley as well, who certainly seems rapturous as she writhes about in the sweet, pungent goo.

Like the honey scene, *Shut Up and Love Me* is something of a mess, but when all its ragged parts are added up, it somehow works.

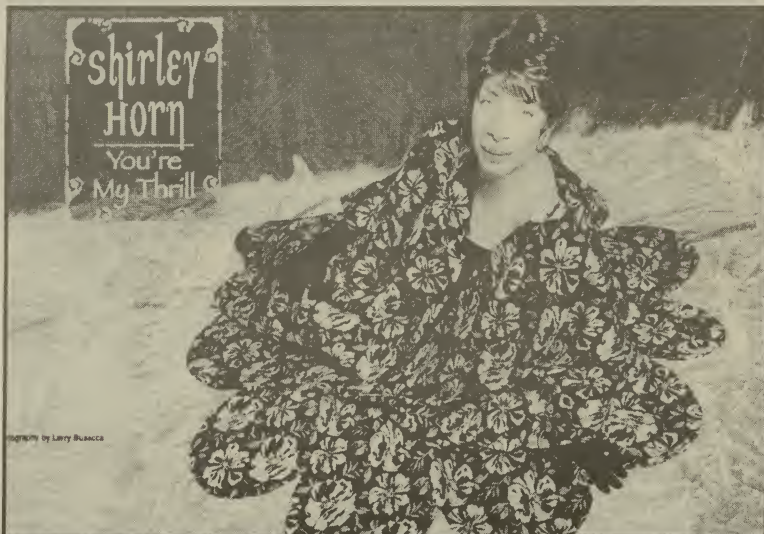
Audience advisory: Ringsiders may get an unexpected taste of honey. ▼

Shut Up and Love Me will run at Theatre Artaud through March 24. Tickets are \$20 and \$25. Call 621-7797.

The Oresteia, presented in two parts, will run through May 6 in Berkeley Rep's new Roda Theatre. Tickets are \$40, 50-\$51. Call (510) 647-2949.

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No biz like show biz

Laurence Olivier as 'The Entertainer'

by Tavo Amador

Most movies about show business, even those telling tragic stories like *Sunset Boulevard* or *A Star Is Born*, swathe the heartbreak in silky glamour. Norma Desmond goes mad, but she had been *The Greatest Star of Them All*. Esther Blodgett/Vicki Lester is widowed by Norman Maine, but she has an adoring public, lots of money, and a glorious beachhouse to help her recover. Laurence Olivier's Archie Rice, "TV and radio's sauciest comic," who is *The Entertainer*, has no such consolations. He's an aging, third-rate vaudevillian still hoping to make it big. Seldom has the seediness and delusional ambience of failed dreams of stardom been so expertly captured as it is in Tony Richardson's 1960 film of John Osborne's play, which will be shown at the Castro Theatre on Tuesday, March 27.

The setting is an old music hall in an English seaside resort. The ocean breeze isn't strong enough to blow away the scent of greasepaint, mingled with the odor of poor plumbing and whiffs of disinfectant. This is Archie Rice's world, and it's about to come apart. His eldest daughter, Jean (Joan Plowright), comes home from London to say goodbye to brother Mick (Albert Finney), a serviceman being shipped to the Middle East during the 1956 Suez

Crisis. Jean's fiancé, Graham (Daniel Massey), wants to marry and accept an important position in Africa, but she won't give up her teaching job, despite the frustrations of dealing with rebellious teenagers. She views her father, stepmother Phoebe (Brenda de Banzie), grandfather Billy Rice (Roger Livesey), a retired but well-regarded music hall star, and sibling Frank (Alan Bates) with affection, but she is clearly glad to be away from their daily existence.

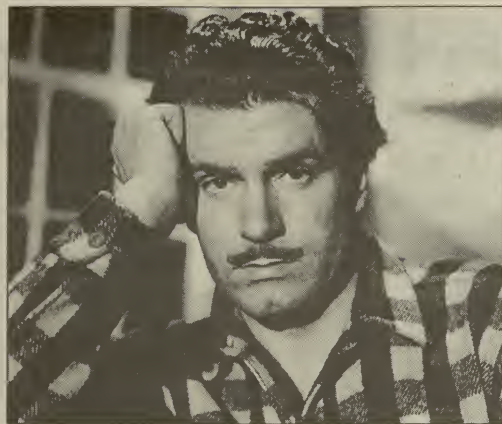
Money, or the lack of it, is a problem. Phoebe's brother, a successful hotel operator in Canada, has offered to move them to Ottawa and let Archie manage his newest property. Phoebe, who works at Woolworth's and angrily reminds her family that she "made something of herself" despite having been born "ugly" and poor, is eager to accept her brother's proposal. Frank, who has followed his grandfather and father into show business, but who candidly admits the talent really got diluted by the time it reached him, is open to it. Archie, however, isn't interested. Whenever any difficulty is raised, he responds by performing some old routine.

Theatre scheme

Archie seduces the young runner-up contestant at a pageant, Tina (Shirley Field), whose crass parents have made a fair amount of money selling bakery goods. He has signed some checks to cover the

costs of costumes for the show he is hoping to star in at the Winter Garden, a big-time venue, and persuades Tina's stagestruck parents to invest in it, promising to make her a star. Without their money, he faces jail for violating the conditions of his earlier bankruptcy filing. He also plans to divorce Phoebe and marry Tina. Horrified, Jean tells grandfather Billy of Archie's scheme. Billy takes matters into his own hands, with unexpected consequences for all of them.

Olivier, recreating his stage triumph as Archie, is amazing. He does his own singing and dancing, using his celebrated physicality to etch a portrait of a man of modest gifts but enormous dreams. In one harrowing scene, Archie tells Jean that his eyes are "dead." They only come alive when he is performing for an audience, no matter how small or bored. He recalls a visit to America during the Second World War (he had been stationed in Canada) and seeing a "Negress" heartbreakingly sing the blues. He would love to do something like it just once. But it isn't her art that he wants to recreate — he wants to feel what she felt. When Mick is reported killed and Billy collapses backstage, Archie responds by performing. It's the only way he can feel anything. Olivier keeps peeling off layer after layer of the glib, charming Archie, exposing a man as cruel and self-centered as a child. He is pitiful and contemptuous, all phony bravado. His last



Laurence Olivier in 1940

line reveals his bitterness with chilling precision. This may be his finest movie performance.

Plowright, in her film debut, is fresh but unexciting. It's a solid performance, but too self-effacing to have led to screen stardom. It's easy to see why she had to wait several decades before making an impact in movies as a character actress, although her stage work was much acclaimed. In 1960, the bisexual Olivier, who reportedly had a long-lasting affair with Danny Kaye, divorced Vivien Leigh and married Plowright the next year. They had several children.

De Banzie is riveting as Phoebe, making her anger and

pride touching. Livesey is wonderful as Archie's more successful father, his own grasp on reality none too certain. Bates is splendid as Frank, his youthful, dark beauty striking. Massey makes the most of his scenes, and Finney, in a small part, is excellent, clearly preferring the dangers of desert war to the torments of home. Richardson keeps the camera on the performers, where it belongs. Olivier received a Best Actor Oscar nomination, losing to Burt Lancaster's *Elmer Gantry*. Though highly praised by critics, the film was not a box-office success. Forty-one years later, it's evident the critics were right. ▼

Oscar Fever

◀ Arts cover

sifications seem nebulous and arbitrary. What kind of useful conclusions can be drawn from a "study" that puts *Cleopatra* and *Forrest Gump* into the same genre? All the pseudo-"statistical" analysis won't change the answer to that question: "None!"

Women's work

A discussion of the "Woman's Picture," a movie centered on female characters in melodramatic situations, and its general failure to even be nominated for best film, omits the 1945 nomination for *Mildred Pierce* or the 1983 sweep for *Terms of Endearment*, among others. A compelling argument could be made for calling *Gone With the Wind* a "Woman's Picture," but Levy doesn't make it.

Sometimes Levy tries to repackage the obvious. In explaining why the Oscars are the most important of show business awards, he cites, among other reasons, their having been around longer than Broadway's Tonys and television's Emmys. But he fails to mention that the latter award is for a medium that is far newer than the movies. The real reason the Academy Awards are the most significant of performing arts citations is that their impact can be felt at the box office. Tonys and Emmys are often awarded for plays that have closed or shows that have been canceled. Winning key Oscars inevitably results in significantly increased grosses for the film involved.

His chapter on studio politics and whether an Oscar can be "bought" fails to arrive at any conclusion. He points out that from 1929-39, the heyday of the studio era, MGM produced the most Oscar-winning films (three, not counting *Gone With the Wind*, which Selznick Studios produced and MGM distributed), but tiny Columbia Studios had two winners, while Warners, Fox, and Universal each had one. Levy credits

MGM's influence for Luise Rainer's consecutive Best Actress wins for 1936's *The Great Ziegfeld* and 1937's *The Good Earth*. But if the studio had so much power, why did its most prestigious star, Greta Garbo, fail to win an Oscar? Why did its most popular actress, Joan Crawford, fail to earn a nomination during her 18 years at the studio? These obvious questions are not effectively answered, even when they are raised.

Levy also "analyzes" the impact of lavish spending on the awards, citing John Wayne's intense campaign for *The Alamo* (1960) as an example. His conclusion: sometimes the campaigns work, sometimes they don't. Amazing!

Errors 'r us

Levy's prose is so leaden and his "insights" so obvious or nonsensical that only the search for errors provides motivation to finish reading this work. Fortunately, these are so numerous that cataloguing them becomes a goal in itself. Some samples: Lynn Redgrave is not Peter Fonda's sister; Paul Newman did not star in the original stage production of *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* (Ben Gazzara created the role of Brick) and Burl Ives did not win an Oscar for playing Big Daddy in the movie, he won it for *The Big Country*; Loretta Young did not receive an Oscar for her "first and only nomination" for *The Farmer's Daughter* in 1947, she was nominated again in 1949 for *Come to the Stable*; Olivia de Havilland did not win her first Best Actress Award for *To Have and Have Not*, a film she didn't even appear in; Marie Dressler did not retire after winning the Oscar, she was stricken with cancer and died at the height of her film popularity.

The chapter on the Academy's membership is interesting. Given the errors in other parts of the book, however, it must be read with caution. Otherwise, the only heat *Oscar Fever* is likely to generate is when it is remaindered, returned to the publisher, and recycled. ▼

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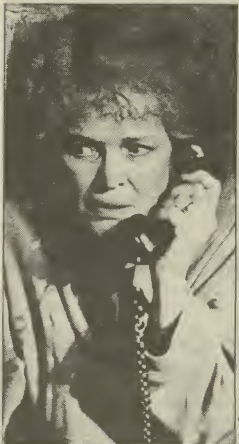
FILM

Oscar nominees

◀ Arts cover

movie? Ed Harris bears more than a casual resemblance to the self-destructive maverick artist Jackson Pollock in *Pollock*, and his scenes of making art are astonishingly kinetic and real. But the movie is modest, and the uneven script doesn't let Harris get inside the man's head. That leaves Geoffrey Rush in *Quills*. As the Marquis de Sade, he was grandiloquent in an obnoxious Master Thespian way. I'd say it's Crowe's or Hanks' night. Crowe was brilliant (and should have won) for last year's *The Insider*, but he is reputed to be a schmuck around town. Just ask Meg Ryan. Or Jodie Foster. The time is right for an upset.

Best Actress: Everybody's saying Julia Roberts has got the prize bagged. Well, good for her. How many gazillion-dollar stars could inhabit Erin Brockovich as Roberts did? Not once did she condescend as star and star vehicle meshed perfectly. But who else is courting the Best Actress Oscar? Joan Allen is on her third nomination, as a tough-as-nails Senator who dares to have integrity in *The Contender*. Ellen Burstyn, one



Ellen Burstyn in *Requiem for a Dream*

of the prime reasons to go the movies in the 1970s, is enjoying a good old-fashioned comeback with her ravaged pill-popping frau in the truly harrowing *Requiem for a Dream*. Irresistible Juliette Binoche, as a mysterious Colonel Sanders of confectionery, is the chief asset of *Chocolat*. The punditry says Roberts' only real competition is Laura Linney as the patient small-town sister and single mom in *You Can Count on Me*. Some of us would count *Count* as one of the year's best, and proof-positive that small budgets can work miracles. Linney exhibits real fire beneath that Junior Prom face of hers. Hell, her career survived *Congo*, she must be special.

Five easy pieces

That leaves us with the biggies — **Best Director and Best Picture**. As usual, they don't entirely overlap. Stephen Daldry won a directing mention for *Billy Elliot*, but that flick isn't up for Best Picture, so he'll be politely applauding someone else on Sunday. As for the Big Five of the year:

Traffic, up for five awards, had some genuinely well-done moments and superb supporting performances, but it makes some serious wrong turns. Preachy and self-important are not pretty attributes in a movie. The Mexican plot is compelling, but the Michael Douglas domestic crisis is pure Afterschool Special. Catherine



Zhang Ziyi as Jen in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

ine Zeta-Jones (Douglas) is laughable as a La Jolla mama who goes from duck salad to murder in two hours. *Traffic* also suffers from cameo fatigue, also known as the Name that Celeb school of filmmaking. "Oh, look, there's James Brolin... Amy Irving... Orrin Hatch (!)"

Still, I'd take *Traffic* over *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Marketed as a Taiwanese action movie, its suspense is forsaken for silly choreography and bogus myth-making. This movie asks a lot of its audience. You must suppose there is a very special sword that enemies would kill to own, though reasons are never clear. You must accept that a monstrous one-dimensional rich girl is worth your movie time. You must further believe that people skipping over water like Jesus or bouncing around tree-tops like bonobos is fine filmmaking and not an artless exploitation of technology. Some defend *CT, HD* as a deft meditation on nationalism, honor, feminism, etc. Where's the honor in tacking a sappy English song ("A Love Before Time") on the credit crawl when the movie is otherwise in Mandarin? That shameless bid for a Best Song nod yielded — a Best Song nod. Sure, *CT, HD* is dazzling, but it's lighter than a popcorn kernel. What a thunderous disappointment from Ang Lee, a director capable of exquisite work (*Sense and Sensibility*, *The Ice Storm*). Lee has a good chance at winning Best Director, especially since Steven Soderbergh is competing against himself for both *Erin Brockovich* and *Traffic*.

Macho manual

Ridley Scott is up for *Gladiator*, which logs in with a whopping 12 nominations. Here we have an overlong tribute to every macho ethic it pretends to expose. *Gladiator* is only sporadically flavorful as a movie. The f/x are really cheesy — all that computer "wizardry," and the Coliseum still looks like a high-tech ant farm. The producers nailed the public's readiness to revisit the toga epic, however. *Gladiator* is a smash hit that looks to the past in more ways than one. The troops walking through a sun-dappled forest are pure *Doctor Zhivago*, and the kinky brother-sister act is pure *The Fall of the Roman Empire*. The barely-clad homoerotic meat market echoes the sweaty slaves of either big-screen *Ben-Hur*. And let's not even start listing its debts to *Spartacus*. Being original isn't a prerequisite for being good, but *Gladiator* borrows with a grinding lack of finesse. It's downright criminal to hire ripe actors like Derek Jacobi and the late Oliver Reed and then saddle them with timeworn dialogue and characters. Let's get some wisecrackers in

grammed responses of Pavlov's dog. See it for the charisma of its two gifted stars, Juliette Binoche and Johnny Depp. Weep for the wasted charms of Lena Olin, ill-served by a battered-wife emancipation story. Pity the ever-adorable Leslie Caron as a little old lady who is nearly elbowed off the screen by the indelicate hams in her vicinity.

That leaves *Erin Brockovich* as the only Best Picture nominee I'd ever want to revisit. In the months since I've seen it, it grows sweeter in the memory. Erin not only has cleavage, she has legs. Kudos to the Academy for recognizing that this story of an unlikely corporate whistle-blower has assets beyond Julia Roberts. As commercial moviemaking, it's easily superior to *Traffic*. Here Soderbergh assembles an urgent story and surrounds himself with the right talent. It wins no points for innovation, but within the confines of populist movie-making, *Erin Brockovich* emerges victorious.

Finally, let's toast the good ones who were left out in the cold while lesser creatures squeeze into their Vera Wangs and their Richard Tylers. The two most noted omissions this year were as Best Actor: Jamie Bell in *Billy Elliot* and Michael Douglas in *Wonder Boys*. Let's not forget Elaine May, dumber than a bag of rocks, in *Small*

Time Crops. Joaquin Phoenix topped his cartoon mad emperor in *Gladiator* in *The Yards*, giving a performance evoking young Brando. The Academy would give Paul Hogan a career achievement award before it would smile on *Chuck & Buck*, a movie so idiosyncratic it looks like it stepped out of someone's dementia and right onto the screen. Even so, Lupe Ontiveros made her little-person character in that movie one of the sweet surprises of the year. Some of us are just sick that Mark Ruffalo was passed over as the unstable brother-uncle of *You Can Count on Me*. And who remembers *East is East*, all about a Pakistani father (the powerful Om Puri) raising his brood in London and hell-bent on arranging marriages? This one pulls off the amazing balancing act of family meltdown drama and laugh-out-loud comedy to stunning success.

Well, getting back to Russell Crowe's flared nostrils... ▼

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Catherine Zeta-Jones in Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic*

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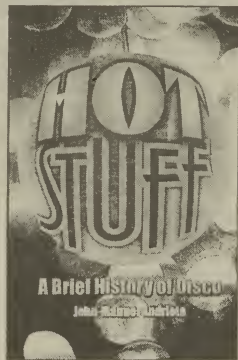
Author John-Manuel Andriote on 'Hot Stuff: A Brief History of Disco'

by Gregg Shapiro

Award-winning writer John-Manuel Andriote's latest book, *Hot Stuff: A Brief History of Disco* (Harper Entertainment, \$13), is about a hot topic indeed. While the popularity of disco music within the gay community never really subsided, it is once again being discovered by mainstream clubgoers. In his book, which traces "how it began, where it went, what it became, and why it lives on," Andriote writes about the impact disco had on both the gay and straight communities, from its early days to the present. You can almost feel the pulsing beat and smell the poppers as you turn the pages.

Gregg Shapiro: Your third book, *Hot Stuff: A Brief History of Disco*, is very different in tone from your second, *Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America*. What was it like to go from working on a book with such serious subject matter, to writing about disco music?

John-Manuel Andriote: I think that I approached those books in the same way, as a journalist writing about a cultural historic subject. So the work involved was similar. But it certainly was different writing about AIDS and the gay community's experience with the epidemic versus writing about disco music and culture. What I



came to realize is that writing about disco did for me, as a writer and as an individual, what disco itself did for people in general in the '70s, which was to provide an emotional release and a catharsis. It gave me a chance to focus on something lighter and to realize that there is a fun side of life. That it's not all doom, gloom, death and suffering.

Did you have a special love of disco music before you started?

I don't know that I had a particular interest in disco music *per se*. I've always been interested in vocal music. Another thing about disco music is that it's mostly an African-American style of music, and my father, back in the '60s, was really into soul music, so I was

exposed to black styles of music at a young age.

As I was working on the book, I realized that I really had great preparation for focusing on this music. In 1978, I was 20 years old and in college, and I used to go out dancing. I certainly caught the wave of disco at its peak. I remember going to see Gloria Gaynor at a club called Lucifer's in Boston in 1978, and paying \$1 to see her, back when "I Will Survive" was a new song on the radio.

Were there things that you learned about the history of disco that surprised you?

What most surprised me was to realize that the music took off when it did because it was the right music at the right time. What I try to do in *Hot Stuff* is put the explosion of disco music into the culture into historic context, and look at the role that dance music played in people's lives during the 20th century.

During the Great Depression, black musicians speeded up jazz music and created styles of faster dance music, like jump blues. If you think back to the 1920s, you think of faster dances like the Charleston, because the music and culture of dancing gave people this emotional release during difficult times.

That's what disco did in the '70s. People forget that the '70s were a hard time with the economy, politics, gas lines, double-digit



Donna Summer in 1978

inflation, Watergate, Vietnam. People today tend to look back at the '70s through rose-colored glasses, but it really was a hard time. Disco music gave people the emotional catharsis that they wanted.

Did you dispel any disco myths during your research?

One of the things that was interesting to find out is that the musicians, especially the black artists,

who were making disco music weren't necessarily happy about making it. They enjoyed the music, but they kind of resented that they needed to make what they looked at as pop, candy-coated music, in order to sell their records. Even Donna Summer said, "You have to sell yourself cheap."

They kind of resented it, but they went along with it, because disco was very popular and a way of making a name for themselves. So when Donna Summer was dishd by *Rolling Stone* as being the great camp diva of the '70s, it was really patronizing on the part of the music establishment toward musicians who saw themselves as serious musicmakers. It's not like Donna Summer set out to be the disco icon. She saw herself first as a musician, and disco music was a way to have a career. After the disco years passed, Summer went on to earn a Grammy award for her gospel music.

Did you have a favorite interview subject?

One of my more interesting interviews was with Felipe Rose, the Indian from the Village People. It was a bright Saturday afternoon, and he had on dark sunglasses, and as we were talking about disco music, he looked over the top of

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Wrestling with personal essays

'Broken Fever: Reflections of a Gay Boyhood'

by Wen Huang

The personal essay, wrote literary critic Phillip Lopate, is "the voice of middle age." In his introduction to *The Art of the Personal Essay*, Lopate noted, "If the personal essay frequently presents a middle-aged point of view, it is because it is the fruit of ripened experience. With middle age also comes a taste for equilibrium, which is the by-product of a developed sense of selfhood." According to Lopate, personal essayists frequently and lyrically visit the past, an Aladdin's lamp which brings untold riches when rubbed.

In his collection of personal essays, *Broken Fever: Reflections of a Gay Boyhood* (St. Martin's Press, \$22.95), James Morrison, a gay man in his mid-40s, offers some retrospective glances at his own childhood to explore the roots of his gay identity.

"I do not remember a time in my life when I was not gay," writes Morrison in the preface to his elegantly crafted exploration of his "avowed gay identity." He says his growing up involved "a complex process of affirmation and negation, refusal and identification."

In "Saved," the first essay in the collection, Morrison details the social identity that he's grown up with, the shy, bookish son of the Catholic family down the street. He believes that his consciousness of being gay started with his early



relationship to Catholicism — a mixture of his passion for God and his love for the ordinary — the flamboyant artifice of the mass, and the experience of hungrily watching the altar boys.

When Craig, his evangelical Baptist classmate, hoped to convert him, Morrison regarded the conversion as a potential bond with Craig: "As long as it meant I might spend occasional nights in tents with Craig's spectral body hovering above my face." The author wanted to save his soul, "but a more immediate longing, to be close to Craig, compelled me."

In his essay "Practice," Morrison relates a story of playing the violin in junior high school. To Morrison, "the violin player was

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MUSIC

The ultimate Daddy

The artistry of Hans Hotter

by Jason Serinus

Of all the singers of the 20th century, the man whose voice and presence were most capable of conveying the essence of the archetypal father was bass-baritone Hans Hotter. Blessed with a huge, resonant instrument that could be scaled down to an intimate whisper, the man could sound invincible one minute and vulnerable the next. No matter what he sang, Hotter communicated a profundity and depth of spirit that seemed rooted in a primordial place of holiness and sagacity. If you can imagine a man whose voice could convincingly express the power of a god, the wisdom of a sage, and the humanity of an open-hearted mortal, you can begin to hear the sound of Hans Hotter in your head.

In the world of opera, Richard Wagner's Wotan, the God of Valhalla, is perhaps the greatest Daddy of them all. In *Götterdämmerung*, he has no choice but to punish his favorite daughter Brunnhilde for her sin of intervening in the affairs of mortals. But even as he puts his beloved daughter to sleep, protecting her with a ring of fire, he makes sure that love can douse the flames and return her to life. It was the Wotan of Hotter, more than of any other recorded singer, that most fully expressed the tortured godliness of this strangely mortal immortal.

Hotter, still a towering presence at age 92, was born in Offenbach-am-Main. After preparing for a career as a conductor, he made his singing debut at age 20 in Handel's *Messiah*, and performed his first operatic role the following year. Less than 10 years later, Hotter sang the lead in the Munich State Opera's first production of Richard Strauss' *Friedenstag*. Late last century, *Friedenstag* was revived in a Santa Fe Opera production in which the lead was clothed in black leather.

At the same time that Hotter dominated the opera stage as Wotan, he became known as a supreme interpreter of German art song. With his voice pared down as necessary, Hotter's lieder interpretations evinced the same strength and surety that thundered through him when he strode across the stage carrying sword and shield.

Modern maturity

Hotter can be heard in his glorious maturity in four recent CD issues. *Hans Hotter, Walter Martin: Liederabend* (Orfeo d'Or) offers a well-recorded, live 1961 mono recital of lieder by Schubert, Brahms, Wolf, Loewe, and Strauss. Performing at Hamburg's Beethoven-Saal, accompanied by the less-than-stellar Walter Martin, the 53-year old singer is occasionally prone to the asthma-related unsteadiness that increasingly plagued him as he aged.

Nonetheless, he is frequently magnificent, especially in songs such as Schubert's "Gruppe aus dem Tartarus" that call for a fullness of expression.

More consistently rewarding are three superbly remastered Testament issues. The first, *Wolf Lieder Recital*, features Hotter and the great accompanist Gerald Moore in 22 songs by Hugo Wolf recorded 1951-1959. Two of these lieder receive their first stereo release. The second, *Lieder Recital*, recorded with Moore in 1956 and 1957, contains songs of Schubert, Schumann, Loewe, Brahms, Strauss, and Pfitzner. While the bulk of its 27 selections are also in mono, nine receive their first stereo release. Finally, *The Early EMI Recordings* combines 1946-1951 recordings of lieder by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Grieg (variously accompanied by Gerald Moore, Michael Raucheisen, and Hermann von Nordberg) with 1948 and 1951 recordings of Wagner and Handel arias. Included is one previously unpublished song, a 1946

"Gruppe aus dem Tartarus" that receives far more convincing treatment than on the Orfeo disc.

Poetic setting

Hotter's greatness is much in evidence in his famed interpretation of Schubert's "Wanderer's Nachtlied," set to poetry by Goethe. "Above all the summits it is quiet/ in all the treetops/ you sense barely a breath/ the birds in the wood are silent./ Only wait, soon you too will rest."

Schubert creates the simplest of melodies to match this short verse. The music makes its mark through long, sustained phrases that must be sung as though effortlessly created by the gentlest of exhalations.

Singing slowly, Hotter marvelously captures the silence of peace, imbuing each word with that supreme sense of completion that many of us pray we experience before the end of our lives. The concentration is absolute. When Hotter stops to breathe, even his long, full breaths are magical, communicating as much as the tones



The young and old Hans Hotter

they support. Equally magnificent is his flexibility of tempo, transforming a sequence of notes into a profound summation of life.

Hotter recorded "Wanderer's Nachtlied" many times. The earliest version, accompanied by Raucheisen in 1942, reveals a voice of youthful maturity. A later version, with Moore in 1957, finds Hotter even more sagacious, his tones softer than before. He also performed the song in his 1961 recital; faster and less flexibly performed than the earlier versions, it does not reveal the singer at his poetic best.

In striking contrast, the 1948

recording of Wotan's "Farewell to Brunnhilde" (*Die Walküre*, Act III) finds a thunderously-voiced Hotter giving full expression to Wotan's pain as he sings, "Farewell, you bold, wonderful child! You, my heart's holiest pride/ Farewell, farewell, farewell!"

Hotter movingly conveys the tragic struggle of a father torn between love and duty — a struggle whose leitmotif has been repeated throughout the course of human history — with a depth rarely experienced on the operatic stage. Here, as everywhere, the sound of his voice touches on a level as primal as the beat of the human heart. ▼

Lilith flair

New music from women

by Gregg Shapiro

It's been a couple of years since the last Lilith Fair, and during that time, female artists have lost the hold they had on the pop charts. Dido is one of the few female artists not fresh out of her tent to have any sort of presence on the radio or MTV. A whole new crew of exceptionally gifted young women have released albums that could potentially change all of that.

Angels & Cigarettes (Warner Brothers) by Eliza Carthy is the leader of the pack. It's reminiscent of David Gray's *White Ladder* album with its successful melding of acoustic folk songs in settings that incorporate modern technology such as drum loops and keyboard programming. The exuberant opening track, "Whispers of Summer," grabs the listener right from the start with Carthy's distinctive vocals and violin work. The layered vocals on "Train Song" are gorgeous in a Loreena McKennit-meets-Sarah McLachlan sort of way, and the powerful "Beautiful Girl" is a song you can dance to with the added bonus of having a message. The lushly orchestrated "The Company of Men," which opens with the lines, "I've given blowjobs on couches/ To men who didn't want me any more" made me think of Judy Collins singing the Alanis Morissette songbook. Carthy goes

country on "Perfect," which features B.J. Cole on pedal steel guitar and Van Dyke Parks on piano. Carthy earns extra points for her reverent cover of "Wildwood," a Paul Weller song.

Shelby Lynne's long-timecoming best new artist Grammy in February bodes well for young Shea Seger and her debut disc *The May Street Project* (RCA). Gritty as Texas soil and Manhattan sidewalks, Shea moves between the orbits of Rickie Lee Jones (an influence) and Janis Joplin, like a singing satellite. She's ready for the dance floor on the rhythmic "Clutch," which is just begging to be remixed for club play. Echoes of the aforementioned Lynne, Sheryl Crow, and even Lucinda Williams can be heard on "Last Time," "Blind Situation," "Shatterwall," "I Love You too Much," "Wasting the Rain," "I Can't Lie," and "May Street" (which, strangely enough, reminded me of Bob Seger's "Main Street" — a coinci-



Eliza Carthy: the leader of the pack

dence?) "Always," a gripping duet with Ron Sexsmith, is the album's centerpiece, and a chance to catch your breath. I don't mean to diminish the power of Seger's work with all of these musical references. I just want to make you aware of an important new voice on whose debut disc you won't find a single clinker.

New radio-play

Television programs such as *Dawson's Creek* have become the new radio. An artist has as much of a chance of having a hit single because his song was featured in an episode of *Roswell* as he does from radio-play. Mary Beth Maziarz knows this firsthand, since her

songs "Hold On" and "Better than Anyone" were both featured prominently on *Dawson's Creek*. Her covers of classic Carpenters songs "Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun" also appeared on the soundtrack to the gay-themed movie *The Broken Hearts Club*. Both "Hold On" and "Better than Anyone" are on Maziarz's new album *Supernatural* (Musaic Records). Her songwriting skills and powerful voice (which occasionally suggests Natalie Merchant, Vonda Shepard, and Sophie B. Hawkins) are at their best on the tracks "Lean on my Love," "Two Satellites," "Spark," "Road to Somewhere" and "I will be There." (www.marybethmusic.com) ▼

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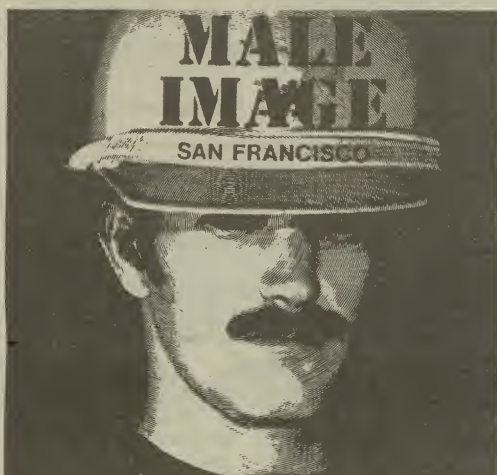
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IML looms large in May

by Mister Marcus

Memorial Day weekend is coming up fast, and with it, of course, comes the 23rd edition of the International Mr. Leather contest. Seasoned veterans in the leather scene may recall that the contest in the early years took place on Mother's Day weekend. But Memorial Day proved a better choice, since almost every leatherman and woman wants to be with mom on her special day.

For our special leather day in Chicago, the new IML host hotel will be the swank Palmer House. In the beginning was the Radisson, then the Allerton, then (my favorite) the Executive House, the Hyatt for one year, and finally the Congress Hotel. This year it's the Palmer House, and only a few among us stubbornly cling to the belief that it will be as accommodating and appreciative of our lifestyle as the Congress. As with any new relationship, it's best to be on guard and not commit any outrageous indiscretions that may or may not be tolerated by the management of that exalted hostelry.

Oh sure, this hotel, like all others used by the leather/SM groups around the country, has been alerted to the type of delegates that will be attending. But most of the time, new hotels are just not ready for the onslaught. The bars and dining rooms are taxed to the limit and, more often than not, the service is slow and the food mediocre at best. Time will tell what rating the Palmer House will ultimately receive from this year's IML attendees.

The IML staff and hundreds of volunteers are already at work getting ready for the big weekend. Judges, slaves and den-daddy volunteers are ready to do their thing. The judges are in place, as are the tally masters and the stage crew, vendor and registration crews. All are briefed and ready to roll. If you have not yet made your plans, there's no better time than now. International Mr. Leather is an ex-

perience you will never forget.

Mr. SF Leather recap

During the proceedings at the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest at Club Townsend two weekends ago, Supervisor Mark Leno presented the S.F. Board of Supervisors' highest honor to Lenny Broberg and David Kloss for their ongoing good works — long after they have held the IML title. I don't think I need to go into all that; you know what they do and how often they do it!

Both Paul Lester and Ingu Yun were flabbergasted at receiving the Peter Austin Award and the Unsung Hero Award respectively and I must admit, those who knew the recipients in advance kept the secret well. Both awards are well-deserved and we're proud of them!

Apart from the round trip airfare and the hotel accommodations for Houston Davenport to represent us in Chicago, he also received a \$1,000 cash prize to use as he sees fit. He will attend the Mr. Los Angeles Leather contest this weekend and the Mr. Long Beach Leather contest the week after that. Further, he will also attend the American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC the last weekend in April.

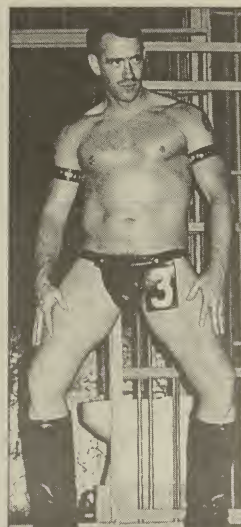
This coming Saturday night, March 24, the Los Angeles Leather Coalition (LALC) presents its second unity display with the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2001 contest. Handsome Jeff Wachas passes the sash to a successor. If you're in the vicinity check it out!

Also, I'll be in Philadelphia judging the Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather contests, so you'll be the first to know the results of both contests, hopefully with some good photos.

World's only sex awards

It's that golden time of year again. Nominations are open for the annual Golden Dildeaux Awards, presented by the Golden Gate Guards and taking place at the SF Eagle on Saturday, April 21.

The \$1 ballots will be circulating this Saturday, March 24 at



Mr. SF Leather 2001 Houston Davenport demonstrated his prowess during the jock competition at the Mr SF Leather contest he won on March 9.

Daddy's, the Eagle, Edge, Marlana's and the Powerhouse. Ray Tilton is dying to know which category(ies) he will be in (no saint, that one!) so he can prepare one of those outrageous costumes he wears to the event. Each \$1 vote benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund, so vote early and often! One of these days, this campy event will win an ICF Award!!

Alley cats

Who would have thought that after all these years — what with cybersex, phone sex, tantric sex, masseurs and models galore to satisfy people's needs — Ringold Alley would again come under fire for late night shenanigans! The SFPD doesn't really want to be bothered with policing cruising, but the residents of Ringold Alley are out for blood because they want the noise and flagrant sex to stop. Okay, so take it home and keep it quiet. Do we really need rampant sex in a well-lighted alley? ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 22

Mr. August 2002 on the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse, at 2100. Win \$100, fame, volunteer pride and fun!

Weekend, March 23-25

They're choosing Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2001 in Los Angeles and Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather 2001 in Philly on Saturday night.

In Fort Lauderdale, it's "Saber Thrust" weekend run — click on www.sabermc.com/run.

On Long Island, NY, the Long Island Ravens MC "Raven's Quest 9" takes place for their 9th Anniversary. Check out www.leatherpridelongisland.com for more info.

In Amsterdam, Jacques Happe produces the Mr. Leather Holland contest in a weekend-long leather odyssey of play parties and fun galore.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico it's the New Mexico Black Leather weekend. No contest, just workshops.

Saturday, March 24

Constantines MC soda/beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, from 1599-1900, for only \$7. No other details furnished.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. Doors open from 2100-2300, party goes to 0200 tomorrow. Guests must arrive with you. \$15 entry.

Voting for the Golden Dildeaux Awards begins

today at five locations, for only \$1 per ballot. Vote early and often!

Sunday, March 25

Golden Gate Guards beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon for only \$7, with the usual shenanigans.

At 0900 hours, the Pegasus MOC comes to life with a 1-day ride to Bodega Bay. Meet in front of the Castro Theatre for an 0920 departure. Bring \$\$ for gas, lunch and bridge tolls.

Wednesday, March 28

It's Leather Buddies Night at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: Leather, latex, uniforms, boots only. No cologne. It's chic to reek! For more info call 863-HEAD.

Thursday, March 29

Mr. September 2002 bare chest contest moves to Harvey's tonight, at 2100. Werner Tillinger and Dennis Silva are just two of the judges for this final contest at Harvey's.

Weekend, March 30-April 2

Mr. Washington State Leather 2001 contest at the Cuff Complex in Seattle culminates the week-long Seattle Leather Pride celebration.

In North Long Beach, it's Mr. Pistons Leather Contest at the bar of that name. A star-studded judging panel and our Mr. SF Leather Houston Davenport will be there!

30 years of Lips & tips

by Sweet Lips

Come celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the *Bay Area Reporter* (and columnist Sweet Lips!) 1971-2001 on Sunday, April 1, Noon 'til 6 p.m. at the Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk Street.

Come see L. James' fabulous, celebrated *Bay Area Reporter* wall. Come feast on delectables whipped up by chef Dennis "Soups 'n' Scoops" Tyler.

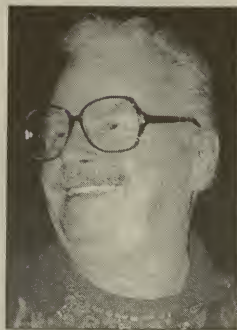
The festive occasion has Lips going down Memory Lane to that fabled year 1971! Some of the BAR's first-year writers were Don Cavallo, Lou Green, Bob Ross, Jay

Noonan, Paul Bentley, Empress VI Cristal, Kissy Diki, and of course, the memorable Cecil Knockwurst Weatherbee. It was the year that Robbie (Helen Trent) was named Bartender of the Year. It was the year that was!

A lot has sure happened since that first virgin issue, and I am still proud to be one of the BAR's longest-running writers, along with political columnist Wayne Friday, leather columnist Mr. Marcus, and porn columnist John

F. Karr.

My gratitude to my publisher and friend of many years, Bob Ross, for putting together a great paper with a great staff. And to my



Sweet Lips at the Lone Star

faithful readers, I say come on down to the Club Rendez-Vous and join in the festivities at the BAR. ▼

Cocktail Hour

Broken Fever

◀ page 32

both feminized and phallically masturbatory, nancy and hoydenish." He chose the violin in spite of the stigma of sissiness. "I wanted people to see it, wanted them to have to think of me somehow in relation to it." At the same time, Morrison tried hard in school to prove that "it did not really mean what they might be inclined to think it meant about me."

Different strokes

Morrison is a good storyteller, and he is at his best when he builds his narrative on small moments and minor epiphanies that are perfectly observed. In "Checks and Balances," Morrison depicts his fleeting friendship with an Asian boy, Luke, whose ethnicity made him stand out from others. "He was different... I, too, was different, and he was, perhaps, or therefore, like me." He recalls the closeness of their relationship by describing a wrestling game which is infused with budding sexual tension.

"He was on his knees, leaning toward me. He wasn't smiling, but there was also something in his face, a tranquil intensity... that

made me feel charged, excited, not scared. 'Make me,' he said, in the quiet, seething tenor of his ordinary voice, and then he was upon me. We wrestled fiercely, wildly, passionately, arms gripping and legs flailing and clenching, and he laughed as we strove, the laughter did nothing to lessen the intensity of what was too close, too intense, to be a contest. His body was so close that I could feel the laughter starting in it, and rising through it, like sounding light through a prism. I could come even closer to him, that last inhibition removed. 'Who's got whom?' Luke finally gasped. His head was locked under my arm, but he was on top, his arms clenching my trunk."

When Luke became a popular candidate at a mock election in school, the author tormented himself with feelings of a possession about to be lost. "If he won, then he would belong to them, and less to me." His act of betrayal during the election, and the ensuing sense of guilt, led to the end of their friendship.

Morrison deals with the same kind of desire, sexual attraction and loss in another essay, "Initiate," a touching story of a brief yet close friendship between the author, a putative sissy who was into

drama, and a jock who needed help with his role in a school play.

Plodding through Morrison's scholarly essays, many of which have previously been published in anthologies and academic journals, is no easy task. One needs to read and reread in a quiet environment, with an unabridged Webster's at hand. Even so, one gets lost in the torturous structures of his sentences and the overly arcane literary allusions, as well as page after page of highly pedantic and at times sardonic digressive comments. For example, at one point, he meditates on a short chapter from the novel *Bambi*, referring to its translation into English by HUAC witness Whittaker Chambers, and linking it to thoughts about death and repressed male eroticism. It is beyond the patience of average readers.

Morrison teaches English at North Carolina State University. Judging from his writings, he fits with the stereotype of a college professor whose thoughts are too profound to be expressed in simple English. Everything he writes reads like a doctorate thesis. But despite its scholarly style, this book, with its excellent stories and observations, will resonate with many literary gay readers. ▼

History of Disco

◀ page 32

his glasses at me and said, "Wow, you really know what you're talking about." And then he opened up and we had this great interview. Then we went up to his hotel room to listen to a new tape that he wanted me to hear, of Village People music that they had just recorded, because they were planning to cut a CD after years of not recording. It was interesting because it was kind of Village People goes techno, if you can imagine.

That was a good interview, because Felipe is somebody who was part of the Village People from 1977, and saw the rise and fall and rise again of disco.

I have this image of you writing with disco music blaring in the background. Was that the case?

Well, I did actually build up a little collection of disco music while I was working on the book, because I figured that listening to the music was part of my research.

The "Top Artists and their Hits" appendix is a very useful tool.

There are 65 different artists

included, more than I had seen in any other book on disco, which tended to have half or a third the number. It just shows how many artists there were making the music.

What's your all-time favorite disco song?

My favorite dance song, going back to when it was new and on the radio, was Vickie Sue Robinson's "Turn the Beat Around." To me, that really captured what disco was about. It was so much fun, and it was about rhythm and moving your body to this pounding rhythm.

Do you have an all-time least favorite disco song?

Probably "Disco Duck," which captured the commercial worst of disco. It came out in 1976, which was before disco became the phenomenon that it did.

How do you think that dance music in 2001 compares to disco in its heyday of 1978?

I show in the last chapter of the book how dance music evolved since the end of the disco era. It's sort of spun off into all of these different offshoots. I think it's in-



Madonna: putting it together

teresting the way that vocal rhythm and blues music was once again separated from electronic music. One of the things that disco did was to weave together electronic sounds and vocal music. Yesterday I was thinking about Madonna's *Music* CD. It's very innovative because she's putting together vocals with techno sound, but in fact that's a throwback to the mid-'70s. So it's innovative for today, when dance music has tended to go to a more electronic sound, yet it's sort of back to the future. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

KISS dolls

While it may or may not be true that any boy who plays with paper dolls is bound to grow up gay, it's undoubtedly right that any grown man or woman who doesn't get a blast from KISS dolls can't possibly be queer.

KISS dolls, for those who aren't Web lurkers, are those wildly popular virtual paper dolls you dress up and unclothe just as you did real paper dolls when you were a baby dyke or gayboy. The dolls and their enormous contingent of designers and fans constitute one of those surreal, utterly absorbing mini-worlds on the Web, and once you are steered to its secret joys, you're hooked.

As explained by Dov Sherman, who maintains the definitive KISS site — OtakuWorld.com — the acronym KISS stands for the Kisekai Set System, which Sherman aptly deems "a fun and easy paper doll game for computer users," adding that the Japanese term *kisekai ningyou* refers to playing dress-up with dolls.

My musical partner DJ Logos alerted me to the dolls' existence. I thought I had seen the ultimate paper-doll site after I visited JesusDressup.com, which had cracked me up with its sexy crucified Jesus sporting only skimpy boxers, surrounded by elements of an outrageous wardrobe, all ready to be dressed up by means of easy click-and-drag mouse movements. I could outfit him in anything from a tutu to raver gear to a devil costume.

That HTML/Java-based Jesus, said Logos, was almost as much fun as KISS dolls, which are downloadable image files manipulated by means of programs call KISS viewers. By way of a quick search for KISS dolls on Google.com, Logos brought me to several sites offering an infinite variety of dolls, many of them Japanese anime figures, each with a snappy wardrobe. We quickly zeroed in on a few sites offering risqué dolls, notably collections of transgender and SM dolls whose closets of clothing and accessories include whips, collars, cock rings, corsets, shackles, harnesses and other wicked ideas. While most dolls on the Net are PG rated, suitable for real kids, grown-up kids naturally want to explore the more provocative sites, of which there are many, with plenty of queer dolls to play with. You get to undress them and reveal their secrets.

Up until last week, you could get all the KISS dolls you wanted free. Now that OtakuWorld.com has switched to a subscription-based service, hobbyists must cough up a monthly fee. That's a small price to pay, however, for the most comprehensive source of KISS dolls on the Web.



Robert Wu, Jaxy Boyd and Ginger Eckert play in Prince Gomolvilas' *Bee* at Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. See Friday.



Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

Preview; world premiere: *Bee* by Prince Gomolvilas, directed by Arturo Catricala, the story of a young gay Korean American man, who is invisible, and an older African American woman who is the only person who can see him. In their search for a cure for his invisibility, they explode contemporary views of race, class, gender and friendship. \$20 preview; \$22 Thu., Fri. & Sun. (\$26 priority reserved seating); \$25 Sat. (\$30 priority reserved seating). Opens March 30. Thru April 15. 620 Sutter St. (at Mason). Tix: 474-8800; www.tickets.com

Build

Kick-ass comedy with Dojo Fabuloso, a gay-oriented improv troupe. Featuring Nick Leonard, Nova Dasalla, Dana Cory, John P. Filgas, and Tim Bland. The venue is a tiny art/performance space in the Mission. \$7 (\$6 advance). 8pm. 483 Guerrero St. (at 17th St.). Info: 487-1071; www.dojofabuloso.com

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace Artists in Residence KUNST-STOFF present a final workshop production of "Everything is Under Control," under the direction of Yanis Adoniou in close collaboration with the dancers and composer-poet Kevin Donlon, filmmaker Evann Siebens, and technician

Matthew DeGumbia. Classically based choreographer Adoniou combines a contemporary balletic vocabulary with bold athleticism and provocative imagery. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Door 43

The Underground SOMA Drama Assn., the Unindicted Co-Conspiracy, and the Acting Company of South Market present the winners of the 2001 Good SOMAritans One-Act Play Contest: "What I Got You Got" by luckydave (a lesson in the perils of trust between two homeless persons); "Dusty Thoughts" by George McKibbens (a rough poetic encounter between Beat and Y generations); and "Rashidi's Advice" by Charlie Getter (television becomes all-too real for one complacent viewer). With DJs sounds before, in between, and after the plays in this funky, cool warehouse space with an ideal outdoor smoking deck. \$5-\$10 sliding. 7:30 doors; 8:30 show. Also on March 24 & 25. Location: 43 Dore Alley (Howard/Folsom). Tix at the door or at Brainwash.

CELLspace

Liz Roman & Dancers perform "Celldance," a site-specific work in the cavernous warehouse that provides a safe and supportive public environment for the exploration of art, education, performance and community building. Roman, who has been choreographing and dancing in the Bay Area since 1984, has taken the architecture of the warehouse and turned it into a large playground for

different dances. Featuring live music played by cellist Talitha Jones and percussionist Daniel Berkman. \$12-\$15. 8:30pm. 2050 Bryant St. (at 18th St.). Tix/info: 244-4686; www.cellspace.org

CCAC Logan Galleries

Opening reception: The CCAC Institute presents "Tracking," an exhibition of contemporary video works that employ a specific camera technique — tracking, or dollying — borrowed from the vocabulary of film and reinterpreted in an installation context. Free. 7-9pm. 1111 Eighth St. Info: 551-9210; www.ccac-art.edu/institute

A Waking Dream Warehouse Space

Opening reception: "A Waking Dream Theatrical Art Exhibit & FurnARTure Sale," featuring theatrical art, masks, costumes, scenery and props from Carnival, GLBT Pride, Day of the Dead and other events. With rare and exotic items of period furniture (1880-1980) redesigned, repainted, distressed & manipulated by several artists. Refreshments and entertainment. Free. 5-10pm. 2815 18th St. (at Bryant). Info: 642-5757; www.waking-dream.com

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Ongoing production: "Martin Yesterday" by Canadian playwright Brad Fraser, a drama sizzling with sex and politics. At thirty-something, Matt is longing for maturity and commitment. Enter Martin Yesterday, a middle-aged city official who appears just right, if not for some dark and de-



Dancer Kara Davis performs in KUNST-STOFF's *Everything is Under Control* at Jon Sims Center. See Friday.

structive secrets. \$17-22. 8pm. Thru Apr. 7. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. at Market, lower lobby. Tix: 861-8972.

Piaf's

The outrageous Holly Penfield entertains with a combination of heart-felt songs, comic antics and table dancing. Trained from age 12 by legendary vocal coach Judy Davis (Streisand, Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr.), Penfield started her career singing Burt Bacharach songs at a topless club in North Beach. Recently she has performed at restaurants, cafes and pizza places in London. She'll do jazz standards and familiar cabaret tunes. \$10 cover (\$5 w/dinner). 9:30pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Tix: 864-3700.



Atelier 142 Gallery

Grand re-opening of this elegant gallery space in a new location in the heart of the Castro. Featuring "Floral," an exhibition of paintings and photographs by James Scott Geras and Daniel Tousignant. Champagne & chocolate reception. Free. 4:30-10pm. 2354 Market St. (at Castro), suite 2, top floor. Info: 861-8216; www.atelier142.com

Rose Street House of Music, Berkeley

"Sing Out: An Evening of Women's Music," a benefit for the GLBT Historical Society. Featuring Bay Area musicians Bonniann Boroson, Helen Chaya, Kim & Krista, Littlebird, Kristi Martel, and Irina Rivkin. In conjunction with the exhibit "Queer Folk Art" at the Center for the History of Sexual Diversity in SF. \$8-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 1839 Rose St. (at MLK), North Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 594-4000, ext. 687; www.rosestreetmusic.com; www.glbthistory.org

Berkeley YMCA

"LGBT Family Night," presented by Our Family — The LGBT Family Group and the Berkeley Y. Pizza, swimming, face painting, soccer, floor hockey, music, kindergarten and playtime in the expanded childwatch area, and much more for all ages. Open to all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families and their friends. Free (donation requested). 6-9pm. 2001 Allston Way, Berkeley. RSVP: (510)

665-3238. Info: (510) 848-9622; www.ourfamily.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band opens its 2001 Community Concert Series with "Songs & Dances," featuring circus marches, Irish folk songs, Scottish dances, American love ballads, Wild West tonalities and more. Conducted by Artistic Director Jadine Louie, the program includes Malcolm Arnold's "Four Scottish Dances," the R. Alexander circus march "Olympia Hippodrome," Elliott Del Borgo's "Gaelic Rhapsody," John Philip Sousa's rousing "Gallant Seventh March," Alfred Reed's "Symphonic Prelude," Robert Jager's "Third Suite," and Morton Gould's "West Point Symphony for Band." Free. 7pm. 1658 Excelsior St. (near 38th & MacArthur). Oakland. Info: www.jonsimsctr.org

Hamilton Pool

Tsunami Water Polo, a Bay Area-based gay and lesbian-friendly water polo team, meets every Saturday for a swim (11am-12pm) and polo (12-1:15pm). All levels welcome — come out and play! Pool and team dues apply. Post St. at Steiner. Info: 875-7075; james@novocorp.com

HMI at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute workshop/classes: "Graphic Agitation" with D. Attyah & S.A. Bachman of Think Again, a group of artists who strike back at mainstream ideas that perpetuate injustice (10:30am-4:30pm; \$25); "Gay Men in Our Later Years" with Cliff Albergotti and John P. De Cecco, an opportunity for gay men in their late 50s and older to explore aging issues (2 Saturdays; 2-4pm; \$45); "Intro to Stage Managing for Dancers and Performance Artists" with Terrance Graven and Indra Lowenstein (2 Saturdays; 10:30am-1:30pm; \$45 + \$5 materials fee). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

SF County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park

"Sixth Annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair," with a line-up of authors and activists including Michelle Tea (Valencia). Featuring the photo exhibit "Texas Death Row: Executions in the Mod-



Michael Billingsley and Natasha Baker act in the youth play *Buzz* at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. See Thursday.

ern Era," comprised of official mug shots of all offenders executed by the state of Texas since 1982, when the death penalty was reinstated after an 18-year hiatus. The exhibit includes biographical data, what the individual was sentenced to die for, last words, and details of the execution. Free. 10am-6pm. Ninth Ave. & Lincoln Blvd., Golden Gate Park. Info: 431-8355.

Sun 25

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Pt. Reyes Coast Trail Hike and enjoy great ocean views and spectacular wildflowers. It's a strenuous 16-mile hike with a 2,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market and Dolores streets. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Club Rendez-Vous

Sweet Lips invites all to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Bay Area Reporter. Lips, who has been a BAR scribe for 30 years, walks the plank at Club Rendez-Vous and wants to raise a toast or two to all her loyal BAR readers. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and loads of memories. Noon-6pm. 1312 Polk St. (at Bush). Info: 673-7934; www.ClubRendez-Vous.com

Mon 26

Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," this week hosted by Julia Jackson, with Maggie Dolan, Erin Souza, Nick Leonard, Jeremy Beth Michaels, Eric Lindstrom, Randy Harkin, Bridget Schwartz and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. Info: 541-5610.

Tue 27

Intersection

Award-winning poet, essayist and performance artist Justin Chin, one of San Francisco's most celebrated queer writers, joins up with accomplished poet and playwright Brighde Mullins (Monkey in the Middle: The Neo-Darwin Project) for a reading grounded in the art of performance. \$5. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Info: 626-2787.

Palace of the Legion of Honor

Ford Free Tuesdays, sponsored by Ford Motor Co., offering all Legion of Honor visitors free admission every Tuesday through 2001. Currently on exhibit: "Toulouse-Lautrec and the Spirit of



Holly Penfield laughs, sings and table dances at Piaf's. See Friday.

Wed 28

HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Queer Harlem and the Lavender Blues" with Martha Mockus, an intro to the popular music of the Harlem Renaissance (ca 1927-37) from the voices of LGBT musicians (6:30-9:30pm; \$20). 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Registration/info: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org

Yerba Buena Center

The SF Jewish Film Festival screens Amos Gutman's *Himmo, King of Jerusalem*, a richly symbolic, occasionally erotic, deeply surreal tale of the goings-on in a besieged monastery where a beautiful young nurse becomes emotionally attached to Himmo, a fatally wounded young man, causing others in the eerie dark corridors to begin acting

out strange fantasies. Gutman, one of the first openly gay filmmakers in Israel, is a master of homoerotic subtext. \$6 (\$5 students, seniors, Center members). 8pm. Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: 978-ARTS (2787).

Thu 29

New Conservatory Theatre Center

American Premiere: "Buzz!", a dynamic-participation drug-education play for middle-school-aged students, written by British playwright Andrew Alty, directed by Dyan McBride, coordinated by Talya Brosh. All parents, teachers and youth workers connected with middle-school students encouraged to attend — free! The play chronicles the "highs" and "lows" of a middle-school student, Cally, who discovers that her new best friend, a drug named Buzz, is addictive. The audience witnesses Cally's conflict first-hand, and at critical moments is invited to advise and assist Cally in her struggle with Buzz. The play recently completed a successful

tour of Britain. Free. 10am Thu. & Fri.; 2pm Sat. & Sun. Thru April 8, 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). Reservations: 861-4914.

Building 920, Presidio

Antenna presents a site-specific interactive performance experience, "The EUPHORIUM," a virtual opium trip based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's opium-induced poem *Kubla Khan*. In a converted Presidio warehouse, Antenna artists have created a phantasmagoric multi-sensory journey through Coleridge's subconscious. As you move through a series of environmental chambers wearing a specially-crafted helmet, illusory images float before your eyes and shift and reshape in kaleidoscopic forms. Your digital audio player, triggered by infrared beacons in each chamber, emits site-specific soundscapes containing fragments of the poem's text, voices, music and effects. The result is a hallucinogenic trip through Xanadu from inside the poet's imagination. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 7-10pm Wed. & Thu.; 7pm-midnight Fri. & Sat.; 3-7pm Sun.). Thru April 21. Bldg. 920 on Mason St in the Presidio (enter from Marina Blvd. through the Crissy Field gate). Tix/info: 332-9454; www.antenna-theater.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



Amos Gutman's homoerotic *Himmo, King of Jerusalem* screens at The SF Jewish Film Festival at Yerba Buena Center. See Wednesday

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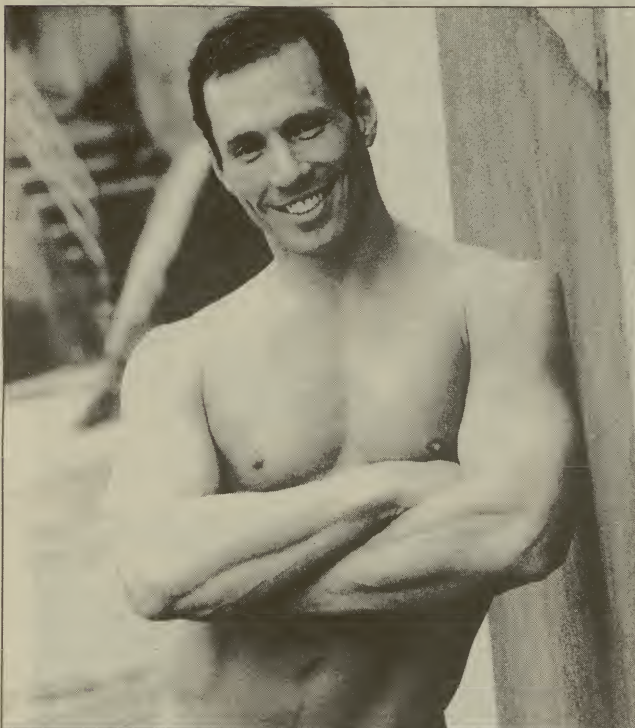


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PARTING GLANCES

Eros, Sun 1/21

Hi Tim, I introduced myself as we were leaving. I had a great time. Dinner, movie, one more time? Me: 38 blonde/blue 5'10", 185. ☎ 72872

At The End Up Superbowl Sunday
Dancing in aisle, then you on dance floor. You: good dancer, blue eyes, dark hair, stylish. Me: longer hair, Latino, retro shirt, big shoes. Eyes met, cute smile. Wanna meet you! ☎ 72873

Brock, 2/8 'Uncle Berts Place'
We had great conversation about Eastern Europe. I may have a room for rent. Should have given you my number but your F-train arrived. Hope we can meet again! ☎ 72896

Nate Poetry Teacher 23 Y.O.

You: Chinese Philosophy, History, Berkeley, BMW, bow ties. Matt would like to know you better. Your background intrigues me. Please let me know if it's mutual at China Cafe. ☎ 72874

"Steve". Please Call 'Joel' From NYC
Mon. Jan 8, Golden Gate Park, sorry for the Big misunderstanding. I'm not playing games either. I don't have your telephone number. Let's try again. Please call. ☎ 72895

Joel- Who Lived On Hyde Street
Got evicted by G.B.- please call. ☎ 72897

Hot Frenchman!~

French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe... ☎ 72919

Love Star IBR Wknd 12:30am Sat. 2/17

You: White tee, salt & pepper hair & bushy goatee talking with three friends near patio bar. Me: blk leather jacket & cap, s/p beard; 5'11". Call me. ☎ 72920

UA Flight Den To SFO Tues 2/13
Flt. 1065 5:10pm, you, seat 336. Me: seat 33a. You live in Petaluma. Hating myself for being so bashful. Would love to spend some time with you! ☎ 72921

Market St. Safeway 2/15
We met inside. Me: good-looking G.A.M. said hello to you. You: tall, handsome White male, looked at me, as you left that Thurs. night. ☎ 72936

"Dasher", Watergarden 2/26
We had the greatest time. You had to work early. I'll drive north. Please call. Carlos ☎ 71092

Steamworks Ken Feb 19, Mon 2pm
Our encounter in back was unusually nice, you expressed same. Wanted very much to spend more time together. Looked for you later, kept looking. Was it just lack of rooms? ☎ 71049

Dublin/Pleasanton Bart 2/21
First car, 10:45am, from Glen Park. You: red jacket, jeans. Me: blue jacket, jeans, black umbrella, off at Powell. Us: lots of eye contact. ☎ 71050

Castro Starbucks Sat Feb 24th
You with catch-22, and those keen, penetrating eyes. I could not get you out of my mind. ☎ 71051

Berkeley Bart To SF 3/7
We both sat in back, eye contact, excited at Powell St. Station. You hand-some Latino red & grey sweater. I Black male in blue sweater, too shy, call me. ☎ 71089

Buddies, Thursday Nite March 8th
You: Jerry's comedic partner. Me: Mr. Pineapple- Guava lube- kissing you was stellar- would like to again. Call me. ☎ 71090

Imperial Coronation Alexis Luv
I saw you across the gallery at the coronation. A lovely sight to behold to me, you look like an Imperial Princess. Can we meet for tea? ☎ 71091

Reno Airport-Feb 16, Flt To Oakland
Made eye contact waiting to board flt. 1724, Southwest Air. Missed chance to say hello. You: tall, black leather jacket, goatee. Me: tall, leather jacket. Would like to meet you. ☎ 72935

"Rod" From Sam Mateu's
Mon. March 5, "Buena Vista Park", I can't forget your beautiful butt, legs and kisses. "Let's try again". Please call. ☎ 71093

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 72875

"Teach Me!"

Bi: guy 40, smooth, clean, nice buns, HIV- vgl 6', 175lbs, bottom, closeted, seeks HIV-m top, your place. ☎ 72876

Raver/Urban Hipster Types
Me: 35, GLM 5'10", 135 dark brown hair eyes. Nice worldly. You: light eyes. Nice personality smile. No heavy drugs. Cuddly, romantic, passionate. Sagittarian friendly. Like dancing. ☎ 72877

Attention Big Tall Guys

Are you hung enough to try my pink hole? Lean Asian 30's mustache, sparse hair, wanted to get plowed deep and hard all the way. Fantasy fulfilled only for you. ☎ 72878

Attn: Daytime Cock Suckers!!

Got some free time and would love a perfectly beautiful 7" cut cock w/big low hangers to suck on. Mature gentleman can provide this. HIV- glory hole available. ☎ 72879

Hot Hairy Muscle Dad

5'8", 170lbs 46, dark hair, 9 uncult top seeks White, Latins, Asian, son 21-35 bottom, slim a plus HIV- N/S, N/D not into bars. For ltr. ☎ 72880

I Exist- Do You?

SWM, cute, athletic, 42/6/175, HIV- Neg, br/br, hairy, clean & horny, looking to serve similar attractive, clean, hung, & HIV neg dude. My place in SF. No reciprocation necessary. LTR possible. ☎ 72899

SWM- ISO HIV+ Man Over 32/ Top
ISO nice looking boyfriend over 30, HIV+ top open minded for more than sex. N/S ☎ 72900

Rancher Seeks Cowboy

Rural living, rural lifestyle rancher 40's, 5'10", 180# masculine seeks to meet decisive, together non mainstream man, no drugs or disease for possible LTR. ☎ 72901

Taco Seeks Hot Dog

Latino, 48, 5'6", 151# ISO GWM, 35-65. My interest: jogging, pro-sports, films, politics, classic rock, dylan. Into: oral, kissing, rimming. Sense of humor and hairy chest a plus. ☎ 72902

"Your Place Or Mine?"

Healthy, good natured guy-weight proportioned, average looks, seeks same for fun times near Russian River or your place. Friendship or possible LTR. ☎ 72903

Mendocino County Ukiah,

40yr old Latin, good, looking, caring, compassionate. Likes to party. Seeking gay male 35-50 for serious relationship. You must like to party. Sincere only please. ☎ 72904

*Latino Encounters!

Looking for GWM 5'10", 165#. ☎ 72905

Santa Rosa Area SF On Wk Ends

Seeking other hard bodies, I'm 47 handsome smooth 39" c, 29" w, 145# sincere, spiritual, strong & loving. Enjoy hot tub, massage & hot sex. ☎ 72906

Paz GAM Seeks Fuckbuddy

Athletic bubblebutt Asian 30's seeks fit GWM/GLM to 35 tops. I'm already in LTR & discreet, good kisser, bottom v-attractive. Can meet week-nights. Let's fuck! ☎ 72908

Thoroughly Decent Soul

Desire more than hot versatile sex with honest available man 35-45. Me handsome, creative, musician, fit 6/190 42yo/gr eyes Afro-American heritage but with White Skin! ☎ 72922

Black Men Who Seek White Man

Me: 5'8", 155 very loving, sexually bottom seeks BM who enjoys travel, movies, theatre and enjoying simple things with his loving male. ☎ 72923

~Asian~

Attractive GAM, 53yo. o. slim, 5'7", affectional seeking older GWM for LTR. Like cooking, traveling, quiet times. No smoking. ☎ 72924

Heart & Soul Hung Big Fun,

playful, attractive, 37, 6'1", 177# br/gr, clean-shaven, Dutch background, HIV-, publisher, own flat, Lands End Trail, Bass Lake, heated pools, naked massage, Plush Room divas. Favorite food: Cioppino. Favorite Book: Home & health 1887. ☎ 72925

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?

Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72926

ISO Uncult Urban Cowboy HIV Neg

I'm 48 professional, 5'8", brn, bln, 170#, smkr, drmrk, honest, fun, travel, dinner, gardening, sports. Yu-loving, any age, stable, sincere, Noe Valley reloc? ☎ 71052

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans

Wanted by HIV+, blond blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71053

"Philipino Men!"

I would like to be your steady girlfriend. I am 6' 165lbs.- GWM. If you like to be sucked a long time- call me. Don't be lonely anymore. ☎ 71054

Nice GWM 39yo Prof Seeks LTR

Looking for nice mature, sincere GWM 25-40 into outdoor and leisure activities for friendship and possible ltr. Me: avg. looking nice guy likes cooking, wine tasting, camping, music and friends. ☎ 71071

"You'll Be Happy To Know Me!"
37, 5'8", brn/blk eyes. Athletic, nice body, versatile. You Latin or White, slim to medium body, versatile. Very open minded, like music, movies, dinner. Under 40yrs. Live in San Francisco- and like working out. ☎ 71055

Buddy Wanted

5'11", 198, br, br, HIV+, top. ISO hot White bottom bubble butts, for get-togethers. 40+, HIV+, no games, n/d, n/d. ☎ 71067

Let's Take Our Time

GBM, lean toned & fit 38. You 25-45, fit, versatile, n/d, in-shape. I'm funny, out going. Want more than a quick unsatisfying encounter, HIV-. Want sensual romantic type. Non kisser need not apply. ☎ 71068

Quiet GWM 54 Seeks Same

GW 54, 5'9", 175lbs seeks GWM 45 to 65 preferably Fremont or So. Bay Area to go to movies, dinner, etc. LTR. ☎ 71069

Good Man With Big Dick

Masculine HIV-neg 6'3", 185lbs, gym-toned, mid-50's GWM with beautiful 9 1/2 cock ISO one HIV-negative NS/ND muscle bottom for on-going sexual friendship. ☎ 71070

HIV+ BLK 5'9", 165#...

Seeking to meet men in the fifty year age range. Attractive to thin or lean build guys only. Looking for fun open to relationships. ☎ 71072

"GBM Seeks GWM!"

43yo, GBM, athletic, honest fun, seeking friendship to LTR, w/a fun, GWM into outdoor adventure and indoor intimacy. ☎ 71094

"I Want You The Right Way!!"

GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips ++. ☎ 71095

White Professional Seeks Asian

For steady dating. I'm 6' 160lbs, lean muscular, attractive 46yo healthy HIV+. You're bright, cuddly, loyal, and conversant. ☎ 71096

I'm Seeking Gigantic Nipples

Musc. GWM, 42 seeks a smooth, musc. Guy with huge, protruding nipples, to service on a reg. basis, relationship oriented. ☎ 71097

SEEKING ADVENTURE

E/B Versatile White Male

Well proportioned, mature HIV-, 5'7", 150, ISO HIV- versatile males in E/ So Bay. Safe Sex. Your age/ race/ looks/ marital status, not important. Please no games or pagers. ☎ 72862

FF Bottom Wanted?

If you also love to suck dick for long time, the world is yours guy. Also into fucking, rimming (clean), w/s, bondage and CBT. If you fit this profile, you're in for a great time. ☎ 72863

Fist Fucking Hands Video's

Make me copy of any ff video you have, in return, I fist fuck you while viewing. ☎ 72864

"FF Butts Wanted!"

Make me copy of any ff tape. My med hands up your butt for hours BM+ welcome. 5'9", 185. ☎ 72865

Mature GWM ISO Fisting Buddy

Older, in-shape and fisting versatile fister looking for versatile fisting buddies for regular sessions. Age/race not important. Let's trade fists. ☎ 72881

Filipino Top Wanted

GBM 40 is seeking a Filipino top for fun. Any age. Looks not important. ☎ 72882

Naked Beer Drinking

Need a masculine lean bodied guy to drink beer with as I take care of your oral needs or vice versa. Lean WM 42 likes younger or same age. Hairy a plus. ☎ 72883

"Seniors"

I'm a WM 6' 165lbs. 45yo & I enjoy giving sensual oral pleasure to seniors- one on one or in groups. Kink optional. Bearded, non-buffed, rugged looking A+. No pain, S&M, gay scenes, drugs but smoking ok. ☎ 72884

~Young Boys For Training~

This very cute boy from Europe will under go any type of training you or your friends will decide. Must be in your 20's or 30's. ☎ 72885

I Love My Dad/ 5'9"190# 42 GWM
Seeking kind, sexy, very hairy daddies 40-62 for sincere romance, fun & passion. Love to cuddle and kiss. Must have fun & out going personality. ☎ 72886

GWM 45, 5'9" 180 Bn/Bn Clean
Shaven with smooth med bld. avg. masculine looks, wants to meet men for friendship, play, easy going very oral. ☎ 72908

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

35 GAM Seeks GWM
You, 30-42, GWM like bedtime stories. Me: 5'8", 160lbs.; like to be bottom call if interested. ☎ 72887

Working Stiff Seeks Massage
Buddy. Would love good, deep tissue rubdown but can't afford it. Want like-minded pal to exchange once or twice 2 week, full body, serious, but fun. ☎ 72888

On My Knees
46yr old, HIV+ healthy, 5'8", 160, br/bl, g'tee loves to be on my knees giving oral service. My age or older. Muscular, hairy A+ Oakland/SF. ☎ 72889

Seeking Serious Nipple Wkout Buddy
46yr old stocky, 190# bear btm, nip pig with huge erect nips brn/bn, tats, piercing, salt & pepper, goatee, smoker, masc muscular dominant nip-pig "bear daddy" for serious nip workout sessions. ☎ 72890

Love to Service Mankind
Handsome, tall, in-shape, 43-yo, bottom loves taking it deep. Seeking dominant top, 30-55, masculine, HIV+, into light SM with affection. Hairy, endowed A+. ☎ 72909

Erotica For You
Latino American hot and handsome looking for a GWM 6 feet and up for some fun and steamy night. ☎ 72910

Strapon Topman
Dildo in harness belt wielded by strong masc Oakland W/M, 54, 5'8", 175# bald beard for prolonged customizable dominant penetration of younger smaller athlete. No drugs. ☎ 72911

Size Queen Skis Hung Top
GWM, 40ish needs a good workout. ☎ 72912

I Like To Shove My Big Dick...
Down a guy's throat, and I like them to love it. I can go for hours. Can you? Mature, hairy pluses. ☎ 72913

Palo Alto GAM 44, 5'11" Bk-Brn
185 likes giving oral in secluded area within mid Penin, to Santa Clara. Prefer thick members 7in to 9in w/no recip. 3pm-2am. ☎ 72914

Hairy Ex-Marine Daddy
Masculine 6ft, 210 into hot oil erotic free massage, oral service, rimming, shaving for masculine in-shape muscular guys only. 18-40, 40's. Lay back and enjoy! ☎ 72915

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local Top to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-neg White, 6', 160#, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 71058

Latin/Mexicans!
I really like servicing my Mexican friends. W/M, 50, 5'11", 180. Do it your way-often and regulars. Married or single. 30-45. HIV neg. No drugs. ☎ 72916

Good Old Fashioned Sweaty Sex
With hairy chested GWM, seek similar guys for all-nighters. Let's go at it! ☎ 72917

Low Hanging Ball Fetish
Bi curious W/M seeks smooth clean shaven A/W. You j/o yourself. I like and suck your loose warm balls. You be patient, understanding, submissive. ☎ 72928

Formerly "Pete" On Sanchez Street
Will be visiting SF March 15-22, hot, horny, Italian, 6', 200#, goatee & mst, very versatile, lv, a msg. Let's get together. ☎ 72929

Asian, 5'7", 135#, ISO Of Fit GWM
For safe play and fantasy sharing and good service. ☎ 71056

Time For Great Sex! ISO Top
For serious oral servicing, I'm handsome, 48, s&p hairy chest. Tall and lean and sexy. UB clean, in-shape, take control guy up for some discrete fun. ☎ 71057

FF Butts Wanted!
Make me copy any FF tape. My med. hands up your butt for hours in return. ☎ 71059

"Office Sex Slave!"
SWM, Contractor, 44, 6'2", 210lbs, masculine, good build-firm butt, kind, seeks 25-45 submissive, dark hair, hairy slender to well built male to strip, take orders, dress good, ns/nd. ☎ 71060

Jerk You Off?
Want to strip, be tied up & fondled? Have your nipples, balls & hole teased? Torture? Attractive, fit GWM, 40s, 6', HIV- prefers polite muscular boys, 25-50. ☎ 71061

Explore Your Son/Slave Fantasy
Dad 44, 165, 5'9", goodlooking prof. Exp in beginning training in son slave fantasy. You be 21-35 and curious. I am safe, sane fun and will respect your limits. 71062

Magic Hands!
I give long, slow, intense, erotic massages. My table, my hands, my place, your pleasure. No formal training. B's and straight's - very discrete, versatile, and safe no reciprocation required. ☎ 71063

Handsome Hung Italian
Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 71075

I Love My Dad/5'9", 190lbs 42
GWM seeks very hairy daddy-ages 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate and cute. Must have fun and outgoing personality. ☎ 71064

Santa Rosa Area
Butt fisher 49 in good shape healthy good looking hung uncult, seeks bottoms must be very fit 25-45 tight ass A+. NS/ND call now. ☎ 71073

Sexy Guys Wanted By Cock Slut
ISO sexy guys W/B to share my girl slut secrets. Be my part-time nasty boyfriend. Bi/W/M discreet, 31yo 5'10", 185#, attr, shaved, into all nite uninhibited partying, love to pose for camera. All male xxx video. ☎ 72927

Tall And Thin Top
6'150lbs, smooth bod, beard/stache, bl/blu, 6+ stays hard for you; average looks, mid forties, looking for bottom with eager mouth and butt, good rimmer A+, 55 and under. ☎ 71074

Opposites Attract
Big-dick Italian top looking for a small-dick, bubble-butt bottom. Any race under 40. Leave a complete description and best time to call. ☎ 71076

Grind Your Hot Ass In My Face
Raunch lover, in-shape, 34, Oakland, seeks masculine men, 25 to 45, for ass-fucking, cock sucking, fucking, foot worship, more mutual, or I'll service you. ☎ 71077

"Strip Naked!"
Then let me sensually massage every inch of your lean masculine body free, fun for fit hairy or smooth guys, any race from 18 to early 40's by fit WM 43. ☎ 71079

Very Att E Bay Bi 42 Thin DWM
In-shape, smooth, clean & HIV neg. 6'-160lbs versatile- open man seeks a take charge tall, (Blacks a plus) man 35-55 for hot times. ☎ 71080

White Male Only...
Looking to eat your pink ass hole, love sucking nipple too. You be 30/40/50 if older. Let's talk, you can do the same w/me. ☎ 71081

East Bay
Appreciative, mature Academic seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. ☎ 71082

Playtoy Wanted...
Bottom GSM, HIV+, ISO Latin HIV+ tops. 40-45yo for intimate encounters, starting from dusk till dawn. ☎ 71103

Filipino Top Wanted
Good looking, healthy, GWM, 36, seeks similar Filipino top under 40 for safe, fun times. ☎ 71083

GWM Seeking GLM/GBM 4 Safe Sex
Jewish male, 43, 6', 164#, mouse-tache, masculine, slim-build, top and HIV- seeking, Latin/ Black guys, bottom, slim-average & HIV- attitudes. No drugs and no flakes. ☎ 71084

"I Can Be Generous!"
For passionate daytime sessions (oral and frotage) with tall, hairy, hung/ cut topme. Met 49, thin-defined body, nice guy. Call me! ☎ 71085

"A Pilipino Man....."
Raped my cherryhole at Frenchy's. This chubby, blonde sissy wants to get raped again by a HIV-, safe top who'll french my neck and feel my tits, to bring out the sissy slut in me. If you french my neck and lick my tits, I'll suck and fuck your cock to bliss! Small only. ☎ 71098

A1 Oral Service Delivery In SF
SF GWM, 48, 6'1", 190#, HIV-, handsome, delivers full deep throat oral service to mature HIV- men who enjoy face fucking and oral service with no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71099

FF Bottom Manpussy!
Wide open and fluffy. First fuck my manpussy and see for yourself. Asian dude, 5'8", 165, brown, 39, sexy, very smooth, total bottom. ☎ 71100

Horse Hung Bottom
Tall, lean, masculine HIV-negative in-shape gym-regular mid-50's GWM with 9 inches, huge tits, solid ass needs in-shape HIV-negative height/weight proportionate ND muscle top, for regular safe fuckings. ☎ 71078

Hot Asshole- Deep Throat
Older cocksucker loves to serve aggressive tops. Take my ass- please! ☎ 71101

Head On The Road? Zip 94501
I unwind late afternoons with a beer, x video and a hot mouth around my 8". Serious oral experts only. Late weeknights also a possibility. No voicemail #'s. ☎ 71102

56yr. Old White Top Big 9"
Dick Wants to fuck hot young White or Latino pig bottoms who are under 40. I am 6'0" drk brn hair 160lbs. glasses big 9" cock hairy chest. ☎ 71104

Mature WM Hung Uncult ISO Good
Sex sucking-rimming-massage. 5'10"- 178lbs- strong body- hairy chest muscular legs- 59yrs old HIV-neg. ☎ 71107

"Hey Nude-Nicks!"
Hey are you up to sharing your "sun-belt" roof-deck- or garden with a fellow nudist? Help me escape that dreaded fog. Am tall lanky and a riot. ☎ 71105

Give Head To Handsome Latino
Trim, HIV-, Latino, HIV-, 45yo, loves blow jobs, ISO any age or race, but trim. Will consider repeats. ☎ 71106

"I Love Giving Head!...."
To hot White & Latin guys between 30 to 45yo. Me: GWM, 42, 6'2", 200lbs. great mouth & throat for your pleasure. HIV- lv msg. ☎ 71108

Blonde Oral Slave For Hairy Man
Gdiking, GWM, 5'11", 150, 45, thin, experienced boy-man, needs very hairy daddy-master. Winks & extended week stays possible. Cockucking, face fucking, rimming, water-sports, bondage, light to medium S/M. Use me as you have imagined. ☎ 71109

FETISHES

Magnificent Ass Obsession
Seeking athletes with firm, proud buttocks. Bearded WM, 42, slowly exposes, massages, tongues, gently spansks and probes your quivering, taut ass cheeks. Mirrors. ☎ 72891

Young Slave From Europe
Very cute and obedient Mediterranean boy into spanking, FF, slave/dog training, etc. Must be in your 20's or 30's only. ☎ 72892

Quench My Thirst!
Looking for guys who want to piss in my mouth. 60yo, 5'10", 170lbs, in good shape, thirsty. ☎ 72893

My Feb. Birthday Bi Threesome
Me: bi, HM, 53, ISO young bi-men (18-20) only for day time fun, discreet, clean-sober, 69, French, Greek, jack-off! ☎ 72894

Submissive And Fantasy??
Non-hunk GWM 50's, HIV-, smoker, top fra/p, 6'1", 200#, non-gym, 14ee feet looking for cut GM who can service with loyalty, respect, and touch of fantasy. ☎ 72918

Seeks Nip Pig Wk-Out Buddy
I'm a 46yr. old aggressive bottom bear "nip-pig" with huge erect nips. I'm stocky/ 200# brn, brn, salt & pepper goatee, tat's piercing, smoker! ISO super masc, muscular dominant "bear daddy" nip-pig for serious nipple-workouts and growth in mind! Smokers A+. Please call. ☎ 71110

Compassionate Cockucking!
Thank Pres. W (you yoyo) for your one contribution maybe ever. Hey guys--this is the story that asks the question: "Am I your best cocksucker yet?" Answer: yep! ☎ 72930

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!
Get your asshole eaten for a pro!! ☎ 72931

ISO Foreskin (X-Tight To Loose)
UB W/M, L/M, A/M. Must be slim! Age/size unimportant but your waist-line is. I'm older W/M, 6', 186lbs. Also deep tongue clean ass-holes. My place. ☎ 72932

~Thirsty Bootlicker!~
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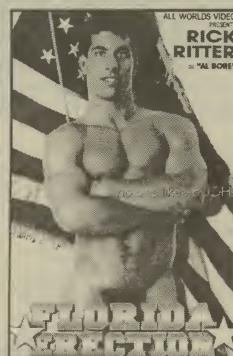
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Here's the beef



From Beefcake

by Will Shank

Beefcake, written and directed by Thom Fitzgerald

Thom Fitzgerald, whose lyrical Canadian film *The Hanging Garden* left his fans wanting more, has entered a different universe with *Beefcake*, which is part documentary and part dramatization of the life of the remarkable Bob Mizer. The founder of the Athletic Model Guild, Mizer was driven by his muse to turn the muscular nude male body into a marketable commodity, in a decade (the 1940s) when the concept was way ahead of its time. His *Physique Pictorial* was virtually the only place where

an almost-naked man could be seen in print, outside the walls of an art museum. Fitzgerald's flick is an interesting amalgamation of whimsical sitcom ("Meet Bob Mizer!" a voiceover chorus sings out, and it sounds like "Meet George Jetson!") and a tragic family conflict. (Mizer's mother is alternately supportive and scolding, but the drama never quite gels). In the meantime, the real-life players in the male-nude arena are interviewed for choice reminiscences, and some of the editing is brilliant. Warhol star Joe Dallesandro describes a youthful filming session in which he boxed nude for the camera, and the original footage is cut into a black-and-white session of the actor

playing Mizer, who appears to be directing the young Dallesandro. The straight guys have a say, too, and the viewer wonders if Jack LaLane either knew or cared just how gay an exposé Fitzgerald's film would turn out to be.

Gladiator, directed by Ridley Scott, written by David Franzoni, John Logan, William Nicholson

Beefcake of a different kind is on display in Ridley Scott's Oscar-nominated Roman epic. Russell Crowe turns in a star-making performance as the general who finds himself on the wrong side of the nasty emperor (Joaquin Phoenix, personifying Evil quite nicely) and spends the rest of the movie find-

ing the chance to get even. The signature Ridley touches, such as a surreal fantasy of an afterlife, snapped me out of my engagement with the action, and I found them needlessly distracting.

For my money, I'll take the original version of the soap opera based on the history of the heirs to the noble Marcus Aurelius: Anthony Mann's *Fall of the Roman Empire* from 1964. In this one, Sophia Loren and Stephen Boyd are the star-crossed lovers whose fate is threatened by her evil brother Christopher Plummer. Without computer-enhanced sets, the sky over the Roman empire never seemed darker, and the drama is played out under a brilliant score by Dmitri Tiomkin. Rent it! ▼

The polite ones

Yasujiro Ozu's 'Good Morning' on DVD

by Gary Morris

Of the three great directors of classical Japanese cinema, Yasujiro Ozu (1903-1963) remains the least known and appreciated in the West. Mizoguchi has several textbook classics (*Ugetsu*, *Sansho the Bailiff*, *The Life of Oharu*), while Kurosawa, whose career lasted the longest, tapped themes of loyalty and honor in a body of work that was both widely seen and highly influential outside his native country. Much of the oeuvre of both Mizoguchi and Kurosawa is based on historical subjects with a broad canvas, and both men are noted for their bravura visual style. Conversely, Ozu, considered the most "Japanese" of the three, dealt almost entirely with contemporary settings and themes. And his visual style is a triumph of minimalism, his camera typically positioned about three feet above the ground and rarely (in some films never) moving.

Ozu's reputation rests largely on a series of austere, quietly wrenching *shomin-geki*, domestic dramas (*Tokyo Story*, *Late Spring*) about the lives of average working-class people. Typically, these center on parent-child conflicts, which often work themselves out to the benefit of neither. *Good Morning* (1959) abandons some of the more tragic aspects of the genre for a witty and good-hearted look at a different kind of intergenerational problem.

The film, now out on DVD, is set in a tidy Tokyo neighborhood of close-quartered homes where everyone runs in and out of each other's houses and pries into each other's business. Minoru (Koji Shidara) and Isamu (Masahiko Shimazu) are schoolboy brothers, 13 and 7 respectively, obsessed with sumo wrestling, which they watch religiously on a neighbor's TV. Eventually they want a set of their own, and when their parents refuse, they take a vow of silence not only at home but in school. Ozu interweaves, and eventually connects in very witty ways, a parallel plot about the possible theft of the local women's club dues by the treasurer, Mrs. Haraguchi (Haruko Sugimura), who inexplicably has just purchased a washing machine.



Gossip monger

Good Morning neatly dovetails these two plots when the boys refuse to say good morning to the neighbors. This happens after the alleged theft of dues is cleared up (Mrs. Haraguchi's mother forgot to give the money to her). The boys' apparent snubbing is interpreted as an extension of their mother's secret anger over the incident (which is far from true), and Mrs. Haraguchi's spreading of this gossip triggers some of the film's cleverest dialogue. One distraught neighbor says, "Our cat stole her dried fish. Should I return it?" Ozu is at his best in observing the progress of rumor into seeming certainty, and showing the viewer the endless comic complications that ensue from simple misunderstandings in a society that values good manners over truth.

One reason why the film did not find wide distribution upon release may be its pervasive flatulence motif. Isamu and Minoru's other interest, besides sumo wrestling, is farting. They play a typical childhood game, which Ozu records with detached amusement, where one boy presses on another's forehead to produce a fart. The director has been criticized for dragging out his jokes, and this one certainly qualifies for the criticism. But Ozu manages to give it a larger significance by contrasting this silly, "childish" activity with the banal conversation and foolish concerns of the adults. The film's title *Good Morning* is a reference to the over-politeness and humdrum ex-

changes that the adults engage in consistently in Japanese culture, and which aggravate the boys no end. Ozu seems as delighted with the boys' flatulence as they are, and more so than he is with the adults' backbiting and boring "polite" conversations—for example, a protracted chat about the weather between the boys' aunt and a teacher secretly in love with her. The endless talk about what a nice day it is acts ultimately to cover and deny true human feelings, much more so than the farts, which are treated as both authentic and amusing.

The Japan portrayed here is being subtly, perhaps irrevocably, encroached upon by Western culture. Salesmen creep in and out of doorways with an array of American convenience products; a poster for *The Defiant Ones* (significant title) graces the wall of the only hip couple in the housing development, the ones who have the TV set where all the kids congregate to watch sumo wrestling. And in a bar sequence, one of the characters says, "Someone said TV would produce 100 million idiots!" but the context in which it's said portends that the process of consumerism, American style—television, washing machines—is inevitable.

Stylistically, this is one of Ozu's simpler films, but it's as resonant in its own quiet way as his better-known work. Shot in a muted Technicolor (which looks great in the DVD's mostly flawless transfer from a 35mm print), *Good Morning* has the look of an old Kodak photograph, with soft pastels predominating. The score is appropriately whimsical with one surprising, perhaps unique innovation: the boys' farts are rendered not realistically, but musically! And Ozu's camera is typically neutral, his vision steady and unvarying as he records the comings and goings of neighbors, the boys' hissy fits and farting contests, the subtle bickering of the women.

Ozu has been criticized in some quarters as too conservative, endorsing the values of excessive courtesy and repression that afflict his characters. But *Good Morning*, at least, makes it clear which side he stands on. In endorsing the boys and their seemingly childish behavior, he shows that while human values can change, human nature remains happily consistent, with all its flaws. ▼

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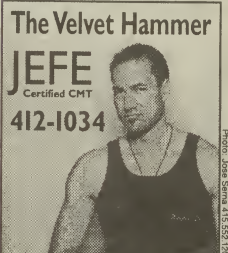
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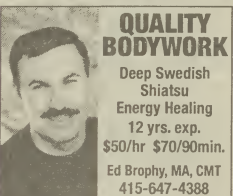
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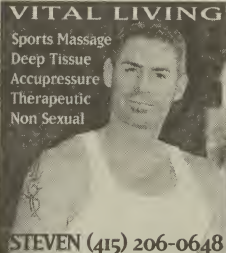
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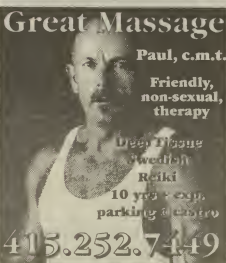
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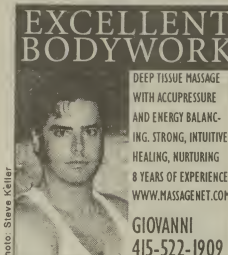
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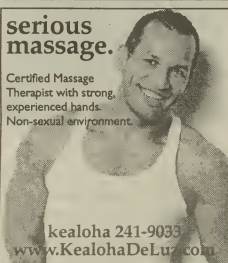


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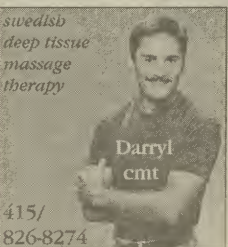


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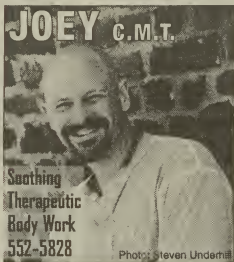
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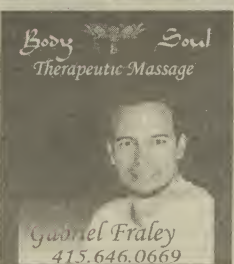
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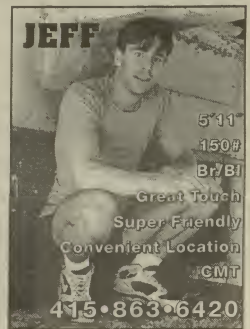
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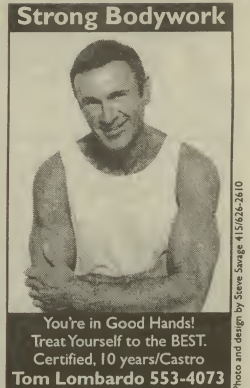
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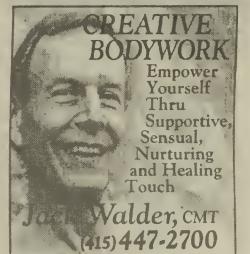


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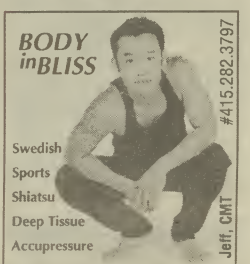


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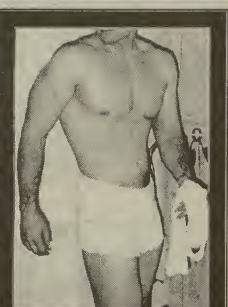
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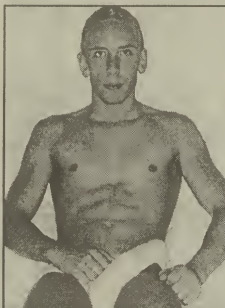
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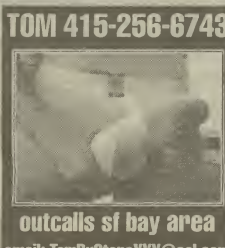
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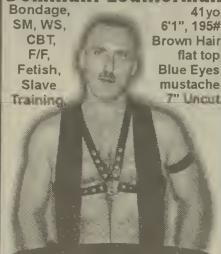
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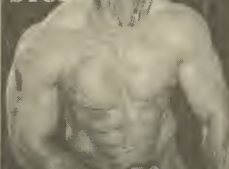
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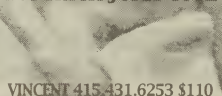
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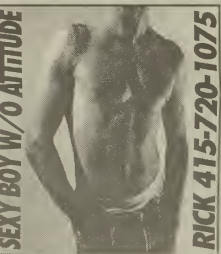
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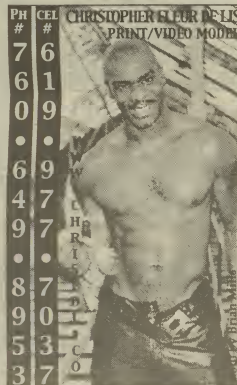
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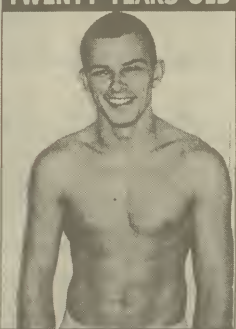
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